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CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XX, Issue No. 244 | WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 13, 2010 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

OPINION METER

This week's poll:

With less than a month to go before the delegate election, have you decided on who to vote for?

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Not Good Enough

Peter Diamond's research on unemployment is good enough to earn him the Nobel Prize in economics–but not to get him on the Federal Reserve.

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China worked to calm nerves Tuesday as it gathered with Asian neighbors, the U.S. and other countries for a security meeting.

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Courteney Cox and David Arquette announced Monday they have been separated for some time.

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Inos: $650K to $750K in gov't savings from partial shutdown

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos said yesterday that the partial shutdown from Oct. 1 to 10 saved the government an estimated $650,000 to $750,000 in personnel costs, but lawmakers separately said this so-called savings meant unrecoverable financial losses to over 1,400 employees who were affected by the shutdown.

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Inos

Gov't workers to get paid today

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Non-critical government employees who were not able to receive their paychecks on time last Friday because of cash shortage will receive their paychecks today, Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos said yesterday.

The next government payrolls may be delayed as well, depending on the cash collections, he said.

"Yes, there's payroll (Wednesday)," Inos told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview, after he met with vis-

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By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and State Technical Assistance Dr. Carl E. Harris, the highest-ranking U.S. Department of Education official so far who visited the islands, lauded yesterday the vision for education shown by the CNMI Public School System.

"First of all, it's the vision that the leadership you have for kids. They want the highest quality of education for every single child. But beyond that, they're making sure there's collaboration on that goal," Harris said in an interview with local media yester-

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HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Visiting U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and State Technical Assistance Dr. Carl Harris, seated-right, along with U.S. Department of Education special advisor Crystal Martinez, standing-third from right, is flanked by Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, seated-left, CNMI Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, seated-center, and CNMI education officials at a news conference on Capital Hill yesterday morning. Inset shows Harris, the highest U.S. education official to visit the CNMI so far, walking with Garapan Elementary School principal Yvonne R. Pangelinan as he toured the campus yesterday.

Local

Kilili slams 3 other candidates, Fitial

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan responded yesterday to the tirades of his three delegate opponents and took a swipe at Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, using the Rotary Club's four-way test on truthfulness, fairness, goodwill, and benefit.

It was Sablan's turn yesterday to address the Rotary Club of Saipan at Hyatt Regency Saipan in Garapan, as part of the organization's efforts to hear directly from the four candidates for the CNMI's nonvoting delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Former governor Juan N. Babauta, former lieutenant governor Jesus Borja, and former CNMI House floor leader Joseph Camacho previously addressed the Rotary Club members and guests.

Sablan took issue with another candidate's statement that the U.S. broke its promise in the Covenant to assist the CNMI to achieve a higher standard of living for its people. He was referring to Borja.

"Fact check: Since the Covenant came into effect, the U.S. Congress has provided over $3 billion to assist the Commonwealth. Last year alone, we received $261 million. And most of the $100 million we are getting from the Recovery Act is not included in that number. It's hard to make the case that the U.S. has not kept it promise," Sablan said.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, right, gestures as he addresses members and guests of the Rotary Club of Saipan led by president Glen Perez, left, during the organization's weekly membership meeting yesterday at the Hyatt Regency in Garapan.

Sablan said he's the only one of three candidates who can claim experience as member of the U.S. Congress, and this is the one job experience that matters. It was only in 2009 that the CNMI elected its first nonvoting delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives, and Sablan won the race.

"And if re-elected, I will continue to do what Rotarians do: tell the truth and work for what's fair, building on the goodwill and friendships I've already established, and looking for solutions to the problems of the Northern Marianas—and out nation—that will benefit all," he said, as he asked Rotarians to vote for him on Nov. 2.

Sablan also responded to Camacho, Babauta, and Borja's separate charges that he does not work cooperatively with the Fitial administration. He said in his two years on the job, he never comes home to the CNMI and failed to visit Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos for consultation.

In an interview later, Sablan said since the gubernatorial runoff election last year, Fitial has chosen not to speak to him. Sablan said because of this, he gets to meet with Inos instead.

Sablan also cited Fitial's cancellation of his meeting yesterday morning with visiting U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and State Technical Assistance Dr. Carl Harris, 15 minutes before the meeting. Sablan said Inos was "gracious" enough to meet with Harris at a Public School System news conference also yesterday.

Harris came to the CNMI at Sablan's invitation. Harris is so far the highest U.S. education official to step foot in the Commonwealth.

"Here's someone who brings us over $70 million a year for education and the governor didn't have the time to meet with him. The lieutenant governor, being a gracious person, met with the assistant secretary," Sablan told reporters after the Rotary Club meeting.

At the time of the PSS news conference, Fitial was having a

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Suspect in alleged rape of girl also forced her to smoke 'ice'

» Judge Govendo imposes the same $100,000 cash bail

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Michael Anthony Jackson, a 32-year-old man who was arrested on Saturday for allegedly kidnapping and raping a 15-year-old girl, also forced the victim to smoke methamphetamine or "ice."

Detective Melissa Bauleong stated in her report that after Jackson allegedly raped the girl inside his vehicle he forced her to smoke "ice" and threatened to do "something worst than killing her" if she reports the incident to police.

Jackson, a Chuukese, was brought to the Superior Court yesterday morning on charges of kidnapping, rape, sexual abuse of a minor, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo ordered that the bail should remain at $100,000 cash, the same amount earlier imposed by associate judge David A. Wiseman.

Govendo appointed assistant public defender Richard Miller as counsel for the defendant. Preliminary hearing was set for Oct. 18, 2010 at 9am.

According to Bauleong, a patrol officer responded to a residence in Lower Dandan after receiving a call about the rape incident on Saturday at 4:03am.

Bauleong said preliminary investigation showed that at 1am while the 15-year-old girl was walking along Tun Joaquin Doi Road in Fina Sisu on her way to her residence along As Lito Road, a silver or gray Honda Civic pulled alongside her.

A man got down from the car, held the girl by her hand, forced her into his vehicle, and drove to the open field located south of the airport bunkers.

The suspect parked the car where he then allegedly raped the girl. While inside the car, the girl noticed a sticker with a "star" design on the lower left corner of the front windshield.

The victim saw the suspect pulling out a small light bulb along with a small plastic straw from an orange medicine container.

As the bulb began to emit smoke, the suspect started inhaling it.

Bauleong said based on her training and education, the suspect was smoking "ice" in the car.

The suspect then forced the girl to inhale the smoke. He threatened he would kill her if she would report the matter to the police.

The girl later made an excuse that she needs to use the restroom. The suspect told her to use the car's door as restroom.

As soon as the suspect unlocked the car's door, the victim immediately ran away.

The suspect drove the car to chase the victim, but she managed to escape and reach Progressive Poker near the Shell gas station.

The girl eventually made her way to a relative's house nearby where police were then called.

Bauleong said on that night, the victim identified Jackson in the photo lineup as the suspect.

The detective said her further investigation showed that Jackson owns a silver/gray Honda Civil that has a white "star" design drawn using snow peck on the lower left corner of the front windshield.

Judge: Brief jail sentence does not automatically entitle Juan Pan to a stay

The short sentence of imprisonment does not automatically entitle defendant Juan Pan T. Guerrero to a stay of the five-day jail sentence, according to Superior Court associate judge Ramona V. Manglona.

In a written order issued yesterday, Manglona said in balancing the hardships, she is mindful that Guerrero has new counsel (Steven Pixley) assisting him on his appeal.

"However, despite the fact that there is no transcript available to his new counsel, his counsel has received and reviewed tapes from the trial, and defendant has been out of custody throughout these proceedings and available to assist in the appeal," said Manglona in denying the defendant's motion for stay of final judgment and commitment order.

The judge said Guerrero has not demonstrated that he has overcome his burden of establishing that his appeal raises a substantial question of fact likely to result in reversal or in an order for a new trial.

During a bench trial, Manglona had found Guerrero guilty of driving while under the influence of alcohol, speeding by failing to maintain a clear distance, and refusal to submit to a breath test. She acquitted him of reckless driving.

Manglona ordered the 60-year-old businessman to start serving the five-day jail term on Friday, Oct. 15, 2010 at the Department of Corrections.

Guerrero, through Pixley, filed a motion to stay the sentence pending the appeal.

Pixley asserted, among other things, that the appeal raises legitimate and substantial questions regarding the sufficiency of the evidence presented at trial to support a finding that Guerrero was guilty of DUI and speeding.

Pixley raised the issue of mootness regarding the five-day jail term because it is so brief and would have been served by the time the appeal to the CNMI Supreme Court is decided if a stay is not granted.

During the hearing of the motion, Manglona orally denied the motion.

In her written order yesterday, Manglona said the facts in the case support the conviction and is similar to other decided cases that found sufficient evidence to support the conviction.

On Friday, Guerrero filed an emergency motion to stay Manglona's judgment and order for him to spend five days in jail over his conviction. As of yesterday, the Supreme Court had not ruled on the motion. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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IN LIGHT OF 16-HOUR WORK CUTS

CNMI asks for more food stamp funding

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan and Gov. Benigno R. Fitial have separately asked for more federal food stamp funding for the CNMI in light of the 16-hour work cuts per pay period and 13 unpaid holidays for some 4,000 government employees in Fiscal Year 2011, as well as for the over 1,400 workers affected by the Oct. 1 to 10 partial shutdown.

Sablan wrote an Oct. 11 letter to U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Thomas J. Vilsack, asking for supplemental food stamp funding.

He said the 16-hour work cut and 13 unpaid holidays amount to a 25-percent cut in government employees' annual salary.

Sablan also said the partial government shutdown because of a lack of an enacted budget by the Sept. 30 deadline resulted in another seven days of uncompensated work days.

"As a result of this unprecedented loss of annual income, many of the 4,000-plus Commonwealth government workers can be expected to become eligible for food stamps," Sablan told Vilsack.

Press secretary Angel Demapan separately said yesterday that Fitial "requested for food stamp assistance for the government employees affected by the shutdown."

"However, affected employees will have to go through NAP's screening process for eligibility," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune*.

NAP stands for the USDA-funded Nutrition Assistance Program, administered locally by the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs.

In FY 2009, there were 7,656 persons representing nearly 3,000 households who availed of the food stamp assistance. Majority of these clients were from Saipan. Food stamp is given to low-income families or households. The amount of a family's food stamp benefit is based on its income and certain expenses. The poverty level is higher for bigger families and lower for smaller families.

Sablan said by the nature of the memorandum of understanding between USDA and the CNMI, the annual dollar amount available for the food assistance program is capped at $12.148 million.

"This means that the sudden influx of new enrollees is likely to require a reduction of benefits for those already in the program, as limited funds will have to be apportioned among a larger number of beneficiaries," he said in his one-page letter.

Sablan then asked USDA to offer an amendment to the MOU to the CNMI governor.

"The amendment would provide for sufficient additional funding to cover whatever demand has been placed on the supplemental nutritional assistance program as a result of the compensated work hour reductions and temporary layoff of Commonwealth government workers," he told Vilsack.

INOS

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While the partial shutdown was from Oct. 1 to 10, it covered only six working days.

"If this (shutdown) have gone for about two weeks, savings would have been, probably, between $1.3 million and $1.5 million… so take half of that, plus or minus (for a week)," Inos said in an interview after meeting with visiting U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education Dr. Carl Harris in the Board of Education conference room on Capital Hill yesterday morning.

Rep. Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan) said this so-called savings could have gone to Northern Marianas College, which he said needs half a million dollars more to meet the Maintenance-of-Effort agreement between the CNMI governor and the U.S. Department of Education.

But other lawmakers earlier said the passed $132 million budget meets the MOE agreement based on previously set percentage.

Rep. Trenton Conner (R-Tinian) said there's "no such thing as savings at the expense of the living."

"It was an injustice," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Inos, a former Finance secretary, said the amount of savings from the shutdown that he gave is preliminary.

The so-called savings in this case is the amount not spent to pay employees' payroll during the shutdown.

The government partially shut down because the Legislature failed to pass a budget bill that's signed into law by the Sept. 30 deadline, or before the Oct. 1 start of Fiscal Year 2011.

Lawmakers, as penalty for not passing a budget on time as required by the Constitution, were not paid during the shutdown although they continued working to pass a budget. This was also lost income for them.

Over 1,400 government employees not considered "essential"—as Gov. Benigno R. Fitial defined the term—also were not able to report to work from Oct. 1 to 10, and they are not to expect retroactive pay for it.

Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) said he's relieved that employees will now get paid for the work they do starting yesterday.

"I'm more concerned about our people who will not be paid during the shutdown period. I'm looking at other avenue to accommodate the shortfall of our people's salary," he said.

Conner again said the relief is not so much for the lawmakers "because they allowed it (shutdown) to happen."

The freshman lawmaker said he sympathizes with "unfortunate workers" for their "financial loss and I hope they can cope with it."

Rep. Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota) said with the budget deficit the CNMI has incurred, "I don't think there is such thing as savings or the government saved."

"As a public servant, it is not about being paid but performing our duties entrusted to us by the people. And that is protecting and defending their best interest and serving our people over ourselves," she said.

The lieutenant governor also said the administration has yet to get the actual revenue collected and funds spent in FY 2010 which ended Sept. 30.

But Inos said their previous projection of overspent amount—between $16 million and $23 million—still stands.

"Once we do all adjustments, we should be able to come up with something more accurate and that time, we will make the report accordingly," he said.

Inos, who oversees government finances, said the main topic of yesterday's Cabinet meeting was the Fitial administration's concerns about the FY 2011 budget law.

Press Secretary Angel Demapan had said that the 16-hour work cuts will begin on Oct. 24.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial pointed out serious concerns in the budget measure that requires further legislative attention, including legislative approval for any reduction in the governor's appropriated funds and the governor's reprogrammed funds.

GOV'T

From Page 1

iting U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and State Technical Assistance Dr. Carl Harris at a news briefing held at the Board of Education office on Capital Hill yesterday morning.

Press secretary Angel Demapan separately said today's payroll "will be by way of direct deposit."

The government was able to pay only critical service employees during the Oct. 8 payday, and these included doctors, nurses, police officers, fire fighters, and corrections officers.

Also exempted from the delayed payroll were federal-funded employees and employees at the Public School System and Northern Marianas College.

Government employees, especially those affected by the partial government shutdown since Oct. 1, have been eagerly waiting for their paychecks for work performed prior to the shutdown.

"The payroll for Wednesday will be okay. I'm glad we will get our paycheck. But the problem would be in the next payroll because we will only be paid for 32 hours as a result of the shutdown. I was not able to report to work for a week since Oct. 1 because of the shutdown," a government employee on Capital Hill said yesterday.

The employee, who has been in government for seven years, said if it's any consolation, at least the Oct. 11 holiday is a "paid holiday" and this will add to his take-home pay.

"After we will get paid for only 32 hours, we will get paid for 64 hours because of the 16-hour cut. That would be in the next, next payroll," the father of four said.

The government needs some $4 million every payroll to pay its employees, including those in the central government, PSS, NMC, and the Marianas Visitors Authority. But to meet the payroll for the critical service employees alone, the government needs some $1 million to $1.5 million.

Inos said he verified with Finance Secretary Bob Schrack about the payroll yesterday morning.

But Inos, a former Finance secretary himself, said due to the severe economic period, the government itself is living "paycheck to paycheck."

"The $132 million, that's the expected receipt for the entire year. And they come in different amounts and time. It is going to take a whole lot of closer scrutiny if you will. We are counting dimes these days. In the good old days, we round numbers up to the thousands. Now, we're looking at even dimes. That's how hard it is right now," he added.

Oct. 8 was fourth partial payless payday in CNMI history, as a result of declining government revenue. The previous ones were on the paydays of June 18, Sept. 10, and Sept. 24.

CNMI government revenue has steadily declined in the past years. From over $200 million just a few years ago, the annual projected revenue has continuously dropped until it reached only $137 million in FY 2010 and to $132 million in FY 2011.

USDOE

From Page 1

day after meeting with PSS and Board of Education officials.

He added that is very impressed with the participation and involvement of all the important sectors in the society in the education of children in the Commonwealth.

"Everyone is focus on how they can provide better educational system…and that's the collaboration that sustains a high quality educational system. I saw this collaboration from the PSS and board officials, to the governor's office, all the way to the congressional delegate's office, down to the parents, students, teachers, and the community," he said.

Harris in particular cited the great success of PSS on its accreditation and technology improvements through its One Laptop Per Child Project.

The USDOE official received a special presentation from PSS regarding information and issues about the islands' educational system and status.

NMI-PSS, according to the presentation, is the first and only public school district in the Pacific Region to have all its schools—from kindergarten to 12th grade—accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

Dr. Harris was also presented data about PSS being the only insular area that annually meets the USDOE Office of Special Education requirements.

PSS is also the only in insular area that is not considered at risk compared to other school districts in the region; with a 10-year clean audit opinion without questioned cost; and has technology infrastructure in all schools through its Erate network.

'Not about funding commitment'

Despite an admission that he was impressed on how education is being run in the islands, Dr. Harris however said that his trip is not about making a specific funding commitment for the CNMI.

"This trip is not about funding commitment. It is about looking what's happening here… and looks on how we can better support the educational system here. USDOE is a large organization and we support all educational work around the country and so we need to leverage all the resources that we have," admitted Harris.

Dr. Harris said he visited the NMI for three reasons: "We came here to listen, learn more about what's happening here and throughout our listening, we can come up with ideas and better ways we can support the system."

He traveled with Crystal Martinez, the Special Advisor on Congressional Affairs Office of Legislation and Congressional Affairs of USDOE.

Martinez, for her part, reiterated that their visit was aimed to talk with the teachers, students, parents, and educational officials.

She said PSS, based on what she observed yesterday, is going on the right direction.

Welcoming the visiting USDOE officials yesterday were Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos, Washington Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan, Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan, BOE members, associate commissioner for administrative services Peter Le'au, and federal programs officer Tim Thornburgh.

KILILI

From Page 2

Cabinet meeting, Inos said.

Sablan said in his two years in office as delegate, Fitial has visited the congressional office in Washington, D.C. only once.

"He didn't even bother to attend the swearing in at the Capitol—of the very first Northern Marianas delegate to the U.S. Congress. He had a 'meeting to go to,' he said," Sablan added.

Sablan said Fitial's idea of team play does not end there.

"He has also ordered all government officials who come to Washington not to go to their congressional office. They will be fired if they do. That's the truth. Of course, they do come in because they want to see their office; it's something we can all be proud of," he said, adding that they, however, ask not to have their pictures taken for fear of losing their job.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when asked for comment, said this is "absolutely false and a mere political ploy on the part of the delegate to advance his campaign agenda."

Demapan said there has been no such communication issued by the administration reflecting the Sablan's allegations.

"I can confirm that the following key government officials have visited the CNMI delegate's office in Washington, D.C. and have had their photos taken with the delegate: Thomas J. Camacho, special assistant for disability policy and programs; Daniel Buniag, special assistant for special projects; Audrey Dutro, assistant to the governor and lt. governor. I'm sure there are more government employees than what I have confirmed. The fact remains that no government employee has been fired for making such visit or taking such photos, as alleged by Delegate Kilili. We remain cognizant that the Office of the Delegate is a public office and not the private property of Gregorio C. Sablan," Demapan said.

Sablan also said he would want to see a federal immigration status given to CNMI permanent residents, those married to U.S. citizens and Freely Associated States citizens, and those born here in the '70s that were not afforded citizenship as others.

Extension of HQT requirement in NMI not likely

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

A visiting U.S. Department of Education yesterday described as dim the possibility of extending the highly qualified personnel requirement deadline to the CNMI Public School System.

"I can't really respond and say whether there will be an extension [of this requirement]. I think what's going to be look at is the efforts the states and territories are making in fulfilling that responsibility requirement," USDOE deputy assistant secretary for policy and state technical assistance Dr. Carl E. Harris said during yesterday's press briefing at the Board of Education's office in Capitol Hill.

The federal agency mandated all states and territories to fill all public school classrooms with highly qualified personnel on July 31, 2011. In the Commonwealth, three requirements were adopted by BOE to classify an educator as highly qualified: degree, valid teaching certificates, and Praxis tests.

PSS records show that nearly 200 of its teachers have yet to comply with the HQT requirement as majority of them are finding it hard to pass the Praxis tests.

The number represents 23 percent of PSS' total teacher population.

Dr. Harris said the "Blueprint for Reform" which indicated the Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Educational Act talks both the highly qualified and the highly effective teachers as the priorities for educational system.

"The reauthorization of ESEA not only speaks about highly qualified but also the highly effective teachers that we needed. So it's the combination of not only qualifications but also effectiveness in the classroom that will be a priority," he added.

The "Blueprint" builds on the significant reforms already made in response to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 around four areas: improving teacher and principal effectiveness to ensure that every classroom has a great teacher and every school has a great leader; providing information to families to help them evaluate and improve their children's schools, and to educators to help them improve their students' learning.

It also includes implementing college- and career-ready standards and developing improved assessments aligned with those standards; and improving student learning and achievement in America's lowest-performing schools by providing intensive support and effective interventions.

'NCLB actually left NMI schoolchildren'

Washington Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan believes that the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 has actually left out the schoolchildren of the Commonwealth.

"We're working very hard in the committee. The No Child Left Behind, for me, has actually left us behind. But we're meeting and communicating how we can now be reauthorized [under ESEA]," said Sablan during the press briefing.

Sablan said in measuring the effectiveness of teachers in the classrooms, the CNMI must also start assessing student performance to see the relativity and importance of having a highly qualified teacher and highly effective teachers in the students' learning.

Harris: MOE *requirement serves as assurance for feds*

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The CNMI government has to comply with the maintenance-of-effort requirement prescribed by the state fiscal stabilization fund because this is a form of assurance to the federal government.

U.S. Department of Education deputy assistant secretary for policy and state technical assistance Dr. Carl E. Harris pointed this out during a press conference yesterday.

Under the MOE requirement, the CNMI—which is recipient of a $44 million one-time lump sum stimulus fund—has to maintain a budget figure for PSS and Northern Marianas College to receive both phases of the grants.

The MOE requires the CNMI to set aside 26.68 percent of its budget to education. Of this, 22.737 percent must be for PSS and the rest for NMC.

However, due to the declining government revenues, appropriation for the PSS and NMC has dropped, resulting in the CNMI almost not meeting the MOE requirement.

Last week, NMC officials admitted that due to some "confusion" on the formula in calculating the needed MOE for the CNMI, a revised analysis is being prepared by the Department of Commerce.

Yesterday, Harris reiterated the important role the MOE requirement serves in the SFSF.

"The whole idea behind this [MOE] is to make sure that federal dollars infused to the CNMI would not become the primary or sole investment in education here," said Harris, adding that it is only through the "agreement" that both governments can affix their commitment for education.

Harris refused to cite the right formula for calculating the MOE level citing the "technical aspect" of the issue, which he is not familiar with.

Since the SFSF monies are only good for two years, or until next year, Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos appealed yesterday to Dr. Harris to continue to help the CNMI once these dry up.

"I do have one concern but I am sure PSS and BOE are both looking into this situation. When ARRA funds disappeare, we will be faced with challenges and I ask your office to help us mitigate or minimize the impact to our education. I hope this matter will be placed among the high priority [issues in your office]," asked Inos.

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Hiring of new NMC prexy could be delayed anew

The selection of a new Northern Marianas College president may take longer than expected following a disclosure that some "issues" have been raised to the Board of Regents about the final two candidates for the position.

It was Thursday last week when the Presidential Search Committee terminated its task of hiring the college's next chief executive officer and submitted to the board "sealed packets" bearing the names of the Top 2 finalists.

Saipan Tribune learned that the committee chose for the board's final selection a male candidate from the college and female applicant from the mainland. These two individuals were from the Top 4 contenders screened by the search committee early this month. There were 12 applicants to the position left vacant by Dr. Carmen Fernandez who was terminated last April.

Highly placed sources revealed that "complaints and concerns" were brought to the attention of the board—now chaired by Maria Paz Younis—allegedly labeling the committee's search result as a "miscalculation."

To date, the board has yet to announce the names of the Top 2 candidates.

Saipan Tribune learned that the Presidential Search Committee was "accused" of entertaining one late application which it turned out was among the top candidates.

The hiring of new president for NMC is vital in addressing the concerns of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, which gave the college until Friday, Oct. 15 to submit its plan of action.

The decision of the commission will be known after its assembly in January.

In the past 10 years, NMC has employed seven presidents, an indication of the college's leadership instability.

Saipan Tribune learned that the board is currently "looking on what appropriate ways" it could resolve the "complaint."

The board has also the option of seeking the opinion of its legal counsel.

Sources revealed that if complaints were found "valid," the board could reannounce the position. ***(Monette G. Deposa)***

Tinian teacher arrested for allegedly impregnating student

Police arrested over the weekend a teacher of Tinian High School who allegedly impregnated his 16-year-old student.

Jonathan M. Diaz, 27, was taken to the Saipan Superior Court yesterday morning on charges of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree.

Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo imposed a $50,000 cash bail for Diaz's temporary release. Preliminary hearing was set for Oct. 19, 2010 at 1:30pm.

Tinian Police Officer Herbert C. Borja stated in his report that a Division of Youth Services officer came to Tinian Department of Public Safety on Thursday to report a sexual abuse of a minor case.

Borja said based on an interview with the DYS officer last Wednesday, the girl admitted that Diaz is her boyfriend and that the test indicated she is pregnant.

Borja said the girl's mother was so upset and confronted Diaz. Diaz allegedly served as leadership instructor for the girl.

Tinian High School acting principal Julian Hofschneider submitted a report to DPS last Oct. 4, stating that during his private meeting that day, Diaz admitted that there's truth to the rumors circulating in the school that he has a relationship with the student.

Diaz also confessed that they found out a week ago that the student is indeed pregnant. Diaz then turned in his resignation to the acting principal. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Hindu community celebrates Sri Sri Durga Puja 2010

Beginning today, the CNMI Hindu Community is celebrating a religious festival to honor Goddess Durga.

The Sri Sri Durga Puja is the biggest annual festival celebrated in different regions of India and throughout the Hindu community.

The festival celebration is held every sixth lunar day of the calendar. The worship period takes five days.

CNMI Hindu Community general secretary Bimal C. Sutradhar told *Saipan Tribune* that the festival aims to celebrate honesty, truthfulness, and good health.

Sutradhar said the holy ceremony will begin with the awakening of Goddess Durga at 5:35 am at the Radha Krishna Mandir or the Hindu Temple in Chalan Kanoa.

He said there will be another ceremonial awakening and performance preliminary tonight.

Each night of the worship period, Sutradhar said a Hindu priest will deliver mantra or worship speech to honor Goddess Durga.

Sutradhar said this year's festival will culminate with a cultural program and food distribution starting at 7pm at the Hindu temple on Oct. 17.

Sutradhar is inviting the whole community to join over 200 Hindus in celebrating the event.

For more information, contact Sutradhar at 287-9551. ***(Clarissa V. David)***

Charges vs OPA chief investigator dismissed

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman has dismissed the charges of unlawfully purchasing ammunition filed against Office of Public Auditor's chief investigator Juan M. Santos.

Wiseman issued the dismissal of the criminal case on Friday after the government moved to dismiss with prejudice the information that charged Santos with one count of unlawful purchase of ammunition, and one count of unlawful possession of ammunition.

Assistant Attorney General Russell Lorfing said for good cause the Commonwealth believes it is in the best interest of justice to dismiss the case with prejudice at this time.

Dismissed with prejudice means the case cannot be reopened.

The Office of the Attorney General entered into plea negotiations with Santos back in July 2010.

During this time, Lorfing said, it was determined that administrative action was taken against the defendant.

"After reviewing the facts of the case and the evidence collected, it is the position of the government that the administrative action taken against the defendant sufficiently addresses the conduct of the defendant," Lorfing said in court papers.

Last April 23, Santos, a law enforcement officer for 22 years, was arrested and detained at the Department of Corrections in Susupe. At that time the proposed charges were manufacture, sale or possession of firearms, and dangerous devices and two other identification card offenses.

Wiseman then released Santos on the condition that he post a cash bail of $150, which is 10 percent of $1,500.

Last April 30, then chief prosecutor Rosemond B. Santos charged the 43-year-old Santos with one count of unlawful purchase of ammunition and one count of unlawful possession of ammunition over the purchase from a store of two boxes of .22 caliber long rifle ammunition.

Mr. Santos, through counsel Bruce Berline, pleaded not guilty.

Berline described Mr. Santos as an exemplary citizen and a veteran and dedicated law enforcement officer.

Wiseman later amended the bail and released the OPA investigator on his own personal recognizance.

SAIPAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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October 8, 2010

The Honorable Ramon S. Basa
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means
House of Representatives
Seventeenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature
Saipan, MP 96950

The Honorable Jovita M. Taimanao
Chairwoman, Fiscal Affairs Committee
The Senate
Seventeenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Chairman Basa and Chairwoman Taimanao:

A member company of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce is engaged in automobile sales and service. This company pays all fees and taxes owing to the Commonwealth government in full and on time. Between 2005 and 2009, this company experienced a severe decline in revenues, and its business gross revenue tax remittances to the Commonwealth government therefore declined by 54 percent. Furthermore, because of the decline in revenues, this company also imported fewer goods for sale in the conduct of its business, resulting in a 73 percent decrease in excise tax payments to the Commonwealth government. Also as a result of the decline in business, this company had to reduce its workforce by 36 percent. As a result of this workforce reduction, this company's withholding tax payments to the Commonwealth government declined by 68 percent.

Another member company of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce is engaged in the sales of retail consumer goods. This company pays all fees and taxes owing to the Commonwealth government in full and on time. Between 2005 and 2009, this company experienced a severe decline in revenues, and its business gross revenue tax remittances to the Commonwealth government therefore declined by 51 percent. Furthermore, because of the decline in revenues, this company also imported fewer goods for sale or for use in the conduct of its business, resulting in a 43 percent decrease in excise tax payments to the Commonwealth government. Also as a result of the decline in business, this company had to reduce its workforce by 36 percent. As a result of this workforce reduction, this company's withholding tax payments to the Commonwealth government declined by 45 percent.

Another member company of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce is engaged in transportation services. This company pays all fees and taxes owing to the Commonwealth government in full and on time. Between 2005 and 2009, this company experienced a severe decline in revenues, and its business gross revenue tax remittances to the Commonwealth government therefore declined by 52 percent. As a result of the decline in business, this company had to reduce its workforce by 29 percent. As a result of this workforce reduction, this company's withholding tax payments to the Commonwealth government declined by 18 percent.

These are just a few examples of how private sector employers and employees have been affected by the ongoing economic depression in the Commonwealth, and how the Commonwealth's general revenues have likewise suffered as a result. Aside from the human costs of laying off employees, the tax revenue losses to the Commonwealth general fund from these three companies alone is millions of dollars. There are many more businesses that have been forced to close their doors completely, and whose employees similarly lost their jobs. Those businesses no longer contribute to the general revenues of the Commonwealth at all. During this same period, between 2005 and 2009, overall Commonwealth government employment did not substantially decrease and the vast majority of employees remained employed on a full-time basis at full salary.

Recently, some legislators have argued that tax and fee increases, which would impact both businesses and consumers, are necessary in order to continue to employ government employees as close to full-time and as close to full salary as possible. They speak of compassion and caring for government employees. Where were those legislators when private sector businesses were forced to lay off employees in order to survive? Did those legislators offer to decrease taxes and fees so that those employees could retain their jobs? One legislator has asked what kind of Thanksgiving or Christmas government employees will have this year on reduced salaries. We submit that they will have a better Thanksgiving or Christmas than will the many, many unemployed former private-sector employees in our community.

We do not wish reduced hours, reduced pay, reduced benefits, or unemployment on any individual – whether private sector employee or government employee. However, in an economic depression, payroll and benefit reductions are oftentimes a necessity. Many businesses in our community continue to exist today only because they made difficult, but correct, decisions in this regard over the past number of years. Those businesses have also faced an explosion in the non-tax costs of doing business over the past few years: a doubling of shipping costs, vastly increased utility costs, and a 66 percent increase in the minimum wage, just to name a few.

Some legislators have said that increases in taxes and fees would be good for private businesses because government employees would be able work more hours and receive more pay to spend in those businesses. This bit of circular logic fails to acknowledge that increases in taxes and fees will result in higher prices in stores, so government employees will essentially be paying more for retail goods in order to receive more of their pay – they will be paying more to maintain their old salaries. Of course, private sector employees who have already had their hours and benefits cut will also be paying those same higher prices, which they can no longer afford, to subsidize those government salaries. Higher wages are almost always good, but not when they cause a direct increase in the price of retail products.

One legislator has made the comment that higher "sin" taxes on items such as tobacco, alcohol, and even candy, should not be opposed by businesses because those costs will be passed directly on to the consumer and therefore won't lead to any higher costs of doing business. He also noted that raising the cost of such items might lead to decreased consumption by Commonwealth residents and, therefore, a healthier community. Putting aside the health commentary, he is correct that that rising costs will lead to decreased consumption. What he fails to understand, however, is that decreased consumption will also lead to decreased excise tax payments on the import of those items, decreased business gross revenue tax payments from the companies that distribute and sell those items, and ultimately, decreased employment by those companies and decreased withholding tax payments because of decreased employment.

The legislature has some potential solutions before it, but those solutions will take some time to implement and for results to be realized. The current budgetary crisis did not develop over the past year; it developed over the past two-and-a-half decades. To suggest that it can be solved overnight, with no pain experienced by government employers or employees is foolish. To argue that the overnight solution is to increase costs on businesses and consumers is more than foolish: it is dangerous. There is not a responsible business in the world that would believe an investment in the Commonwealth under current circumstances would be a prudent decision if they have watched the events of the past two weeks unfold.

Secretary of Commerce Michael Ada testified before the Senate the other night, echoing comments previously made by the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, that legitimate tax-paying, law-abiding businesses will be further harmed by this bill and will be at a greater competitive disadvantage versus the many businesses in the Commonwealth that do not comply with business-related laws and regulations: those that do not report or underreport their taxes, those without the appropriate licenses, those who do not comply with applicable codes, those who do not pay at least the minimum wage or who do not comply with Department of Labor hiring requirements. He is correct. The Commonwealth government's historical lack of enforcement efforts in these areas has harmed law-abiding businesses and has led to decreased government general fund revenues. We are curious to know, considering the $121,000,000 net personnel costs for government employees, how many employees have been reassigned from non-revenue generating positions to revenue generating enforcement positions?

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce has offered to make available individuals, from within its membership, who have expertise in areas relevant to the many tax and fee increase proposals that have been floated. We have not said "absolutely no tax or fee increases." What we have asked is that any such proposed increases be studied carefully and considered thoroughly, in order to minimize the negative impacts that come with any tax or fee increase. To suggest "let's just try something; maybe it will work," as some legislators have urged, is irresponsible. The appropriate way to proceed would be to receive data and testimony from the relevant government departments such as the Division of Revenue and Taxation, the Department of Finance, and the Department of Commerce. Work with their employees to understand the data. Work with tax experts to understand tax implications, and banking officials to understand economic implications. Call in private-sector managers to understand sales implications. Once you have done this, you will be in a position to make informed decisions. Is it a fast process? No. Is it the right and necessary process? Yes.

We understand and share the legislature's concern for the well-being of government employees. It is a concern that businesses in the private sector also have for their own employees. However, there are fiscal and constitutional realities that must be acknowledged. If simply raising retail prices, which is what tax and fee increases would bring about, was the answer to revenue decreases, private sector businesses would never have to downsize their own workforces. The reality is, however, that after a certain point, increased prices cause a decrease in sales that offsets any tax revenue increases brought about by increased taxes and fees. Once that point is passed, the Commonwealth's overall general fund tax revenues will decrease as a result of the additional taxes and fees. We continue to stand ready to work with the Commonwealth government collaboratively on this issue, once a balanced budget is enacted.

Sincerely,

Kyle L. Calabrese
Executive Director

cc: The Honorable Benigno R. Fitial
Governor

The Honorable Eloy S. Inos
Lieutenant Governor

Members of the Senate
Seventeenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature

Members of the House of Representatives
Seventeenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature

DUE TO WORKHOUR CUTS

'No more breakfast for *man'amko'*

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The approved work schedule for all Executive Branch government employees will prevent the Office on Aging from providing services for the CNMI's elderly population.

Aging director Rose Mondala told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that a work schedule that begins at 8:30am would mean less time to prepare breakfast for the congregates as well as meals for the homebound clients.

The passage and signing of the budget measure, now Public Law 17-21, will result to the 16-hour work cuts per pay period for all affected government employees beginning with the Oct. 24 pay period. They will also be subjected to 13 unpaid holidays.

Work hours for thousands of government employees under the Executive Branch will follow an 8:30am to 4:30pm schedule from Monday to Thursday and 7:30am to 4:30pm on non-payroll Fridays. Offices will be closed during payroll Fridays.

According to Mondala, the Office on Aging currently serves over 100 homebound clients on Saipan, 33 on Tinian, and 44 on Rota.

Mondala said that with the 8:30am schedule, it will be impossible for the cooks at the Aging Center to prepare breakfast for the congregates.

"[It would mean] no more breakfast for congregates," said Mondala.

The Aging director also said that federally funded programs will be affected by the closure of their office on payroll Fridays, as the meal counts they have to report as required by these programs will be reduced.

Mondala said she plans to meet with Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Melvin Faisao to discuss her concerns regarding the delivery of services for the *man'amko*.

Autism Society of the CNMI meeting on Oct. 6

The Autism Society of the CNMI will be holding its monthly meeting on Saturday, Oct, 16, at 10am at the NMPASI conference room.

Information regarding the group and future meetings will be available at this meeting. All families and friends of individuals with autism and autism related spectrum disorders are invited to attend.

For additional information, call 322-3761 or send an email to as_cnmi@yahoo.com. ***(PR)***

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Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Oct. 13, 1999

O'Connor says CUC should honor 'oral' contract

Lawyer Robert O'Connor has asked the Superior Court to deny the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s motion for summary judgment against his civil lawsuit, maintaining that the agency is bound to honor an "oral contract" between him and a CUC employee. The case stemmed from CUC's installation of a power pole on the property on Mt. Tapochau being leased by O'Connor. O'Connor, who is represented by lawyer Joseph Horey, reminded CUC that when the poles were being installed in 1996, its employee Robert Malate had agreed to move the line of power poles away from his property. In his lawsuit, O'Connor said CUC had reneged on its promise to relocate the power line installation.

PSS to hold another bidding

The Public School System will select next week a company that will be commissioned to undertake the completion of the long-delayed Marianas High School gymnasium project, a PSS facility specialist said yesterday. "We expect the contract to be awarded by Oct. 27 if we don't encounter any complications like we did in the past," PSS facility specialist Chris Fryling said. Fryling said PSS had two aborted biddings earlier this year. The first bidding, Fryling said, was canceled by PSS after learning that there was no funds available for the project. "We thought there were still some leftover from the money used by B&R Construction. When we were about to sign the contract, we found out that we have no more money," Fryling said.

Oct. 13, 2000

$7-M allocated for Tinian airport, other CIPs

Nearly $7 million were set aside yesterday by the government to finance various capital improvement projects on the islands, including additional funding for the West Tinian International Airport expansion. Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio signed into law three appropriation bills during a brief ceremony witnessed by members of the Legislature at his Capitol Hill office. One of the new laws earmarked $6.51 million for the runway expansion project on Tinian after its initial estimated budget of $17 million fell short of the actual costs.

GDDC eyes to address disability services for nonresident workers

The Governor's Developmental Disabilities Council disclosed yesterday plans to act on growing concerns that non-resident individuals with disabilities on the CNMI have very limited access to disability services. Executive Director Thomas J. Camacho raised the issue during the Service Providers' Training on Legislative Issues held at the Aqua Resort Club yesterday, saying the issue is not only isolated to the Northern Marianas but is a mounting concern experienced by the whole nation. "We have been receiving some calls from local agencies and families about their children with disabilities and how they are unable to tap the services due to their citizenship. These individuals, by law, are not covered to avail the services we offer," said Mr. Camacho.

Oct. 13, 2002

Launching of youth webpage next month

The virtual venue for youth fora and interaction is expected to make its debut on the World Wide Web in November 2002 with the anticipated launching of the CNMI Youth Web Page. The web development project, funded through a local appropriation act signed by former Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio, is envisioned to be a lively and entertaining zone where CNMI's youths can convene and express their insights on various issues. The project's expenditure authority, the Legislative Bureau, has hired Angil Design Inc. to construct the webpage consisting of six sections or features, including a homepage, career assistance, schools page, Youth issues forum, CNMI youth organizations and calendar of events.

BOE adopts Reading First initiative goals

A plan envisioned to produce proficient and advanced readers among public school students gained full support from the State Board of Education Thursday, with the adoption of the Reading First Initiative goals and objectives. Under the initiative, PSS targets that, by 2008, all students will be proficient and advanced readers by the end of the school year. Also, one of the goals set by PSS is to develop teachers who are proficient in effective standards and scientifically-based reading instruction. The other goals include placing teachers appropriately based on their credentials and endorsement and ensuring full BOE support relative to reading first initiative policies and implementation.

Syed ask DHS to waive advance parole fee in emergency cases

The president of the United Workers Movement-NMI has requested U.S. Department of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano to waive the advance parole fee for guest workers in emergency situations.

In a letter to Napolitano, UWM president Rabby Syed requested that the travel document Form I-131, or advance parole, be waived due to the bad economic situation in the CNMI.

According to Syed, many guest workers in the CNMI only earn the current minimum wage of $5.05 per hour.

He said some of these workers have to work for less than 80 hours per pay period and could not afford the advance parole fee of $305, which will increase to $360 by Nov. 23.

"Our understanding, DHS set the advance parole fee based on U.S. mainland standard earning," said Syed in his letter.

Syed told *Saipan Tribune* that humanitarian consideration also prompted his request to waive the advance parole fee for the guest workers.

"It is very hard to obtain an advance parole for taking off-island trip for emergency purpose like attending funeral service of immediate relatives and medical purposes," said Syed.

According to Syed, some guest workers need off-island medical treatment since there is a dearth of sophisticated medical facilities on island.

Syed said most of the guest workers shoulder their own medical and travel expenses, which are "very unaffordable.

He said the waiver he requested is only for emergency cases and not for personal travel.

Syed remains hopeful that Napolitano will give a positive feedback on his request.

"It is very important that we ask her consideration because people are having a hard time," added Syed. ***(Clarissa V. David)***

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Tan Siu Lin Foundation	Dandan Elementary School Grace Christian Academy Koblerville Elementary School Saipan International School Green Meadow School

The Department of Interior recommends U.S. Citizenship or permanent residency for long-term guest workers.

The Covenant Party strongly disagrees!

The Covenant Party believes guest workers came into the CNMI to temporarily supplement---not permanently replace---our local workforce.

The founding fathers of the Covenant never contemplated the granting of U.S. Citizenship or permanent residency for long-term guest workers.

Please join the Covenant Party in rejecting the DOI report.

Let the will of the people be heard.

Covenant Party
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Paid for by the Covenant Party. Emma S. Villagomez, Treasurer.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XX, Issue No. 244

Published daily at 2/F JP Centre,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Not on the same page

In a series of articles in June and July, *The Times* reported that California welfare recipients were able to use their state-issued ATM cards to get cash benefits at casinos, strip clubs and massage parlors. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger moved swiftly to make sure the cards were no longer valid in those places. Some lawmakers urged the administration to track down people who withdrew money at such locales and get it back.

Last week, *The Times* reported that more than $69 million in welfare money had been spent out of state, including in Las Vegas and on cruise ships, from 2007 to May of this year. The Schwarzenegger administration again moved quickly to cut off the use of the state cards in vacation spots.

It's gratifying to see Sacramento respond with such alacrity to Times reporting, especially when it involved such painstaking collection and tabulation of data. And the administration's action no doubt will win the approval of many Californians who struggle to make a living, play by the rules and pay their taxes, only to read how millions of their tax dollars are being retrieved on gambling floors or spent in locations that they themselves might not be able to afford to visit.

But we still wonder whether Schwarzenegger and the state Department of Social Services have missed the point.

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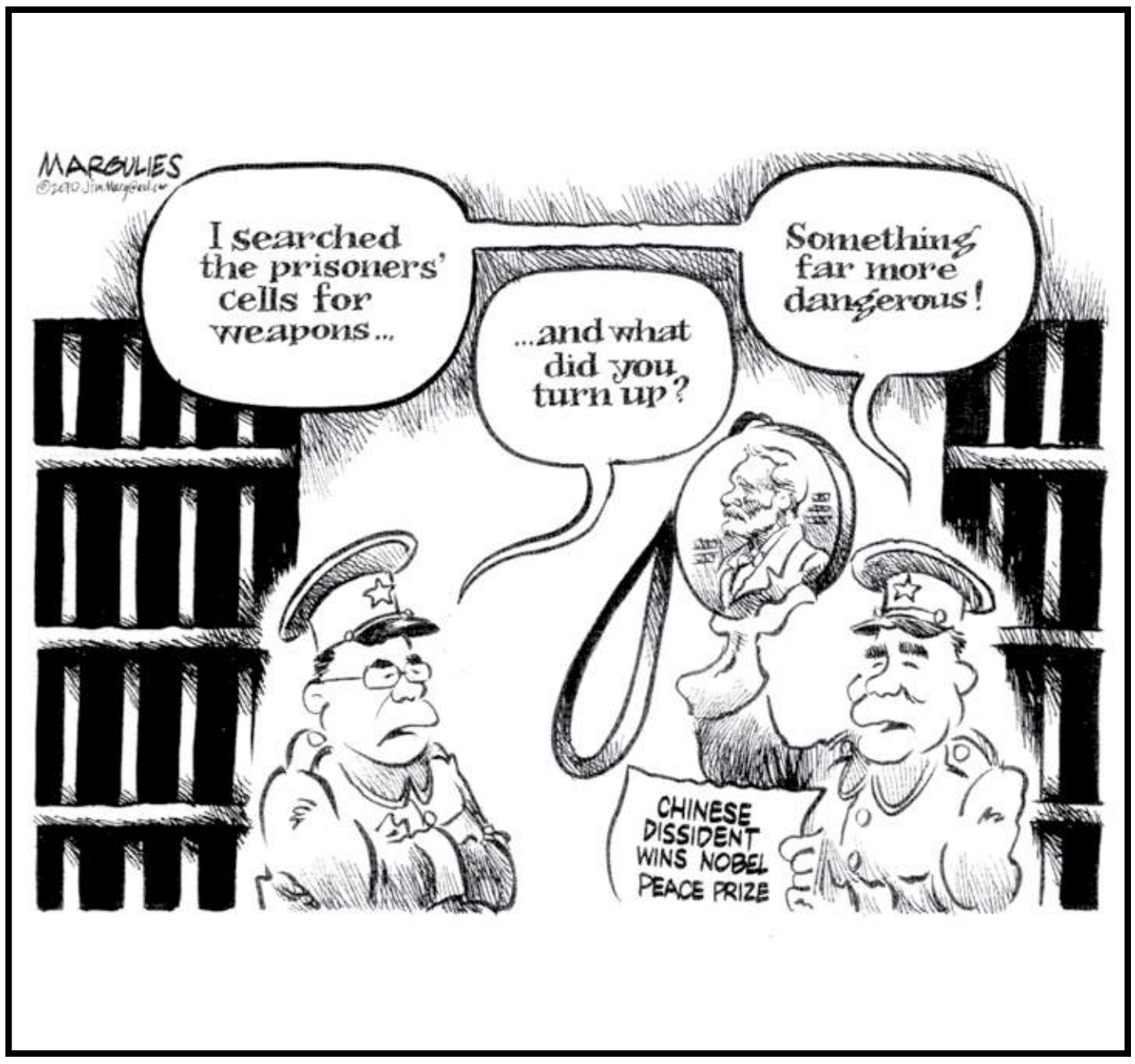
The Times reports presented data that ought to ring alarm bells and spur the state to study, or help counties study, whether federal and state benefits passed through the CalWorks program are being used as intended, and whether the electronic benefits transfer cards are being abused. The data suggest that in at least some cases, there could be abuse or even fraud. But the information about expenditures in unexpected places is just that— information—and should not be confused with, or substituted for, conclusions about whether California's welfare program is cost-effective.

The millions of dollars in welfare money that The Times' analysis showed had been spent out of state, while a sizable figure, represent only one-half of 1 percent of the state's CalWorks benefits. Even if every penny of that money represents fraud or abuse, such a loss rate is to be expected in any government contract or benefits program. That's not to say that the loss is acceptable; the state must always police against fraud and abuse to ensure that taxpayer money is being spent

See NOT on Page 13


MARGULIES
I searched the prisoners' cells for weapons...
...and what did you turn up?
Something far more dangerous!
CHINESE DISSIDENT WINS NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

The worst that can happen

The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT

Creating economic success for the CNMI

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 16 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit. Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here on Saipan. To learn more, visit www.passionprofit.com and follow Walt on Twitter (waltonsaipan).

Sometimes it's really funny the illogical fears people allow to paralyze them. I shared a moment of levity about this with one of my coaching clients that I thought I'd share with you.

"B" is a talented communicator and marketing person who was in-between jobs at that time. She was sitting at home—doing nothing—and just a little depressed, lamenting the fact that nothing was going on in her life.

Then, she told me about a unique contest she had heard about. It was a "Submit Your Ideas" contest and call for entries being hosted by a fairly reputable organization here in the city. She was debating whether or not to participate, since, while the prize (a full-time position with the company) was enticing, she feared that the contest organizers might simply steal her ideas and use them without compensation. (Sure, it happens all the time, but companies that plan to steal ideas generally don't go public with a call for entries!)

We weighed the pros and cons, and eventually, I encouraged her to enter the contest anyway, but to structure her ideas in such a way as to make herself and her involvement in them an indispensable part of their success. In other words, present the idea in such a way that the idea would likely not succeed without her unique talents and participation in the process.

I acknowledged her concerns, but insisted that she had nothing to lose when she considered the alternative. My exact words were, "Hey look, you might as well. 'Cause the worst that can happen… well, is already happening!" (i.e. nothing at all!) We shared a laugh, and then pondered the truth and implications of the statement.

There's always something in another person's experience that you can apply to your own life. Are you letting some irrational fear paralyze you? Are you opting to be safe in your inaction, rather than expose yourself to a little risk by taking action?

In your social life, are you choosing to stay at home and meet nobody rather than go out because you might get rejected by somebody? In pursuing your passion, are you choosing to keep your ideas and talents a secret and in your mind alone, where they are safely yours rather than put them out there for the world to see because someone might steal them? (I can relate. That's the same thought I had just before finding the courage to publish my first book—the book which became so successful that I was able to match my civil engineering salary and quit my job!)

If the worst that can happen is nothing at all, and you end up right where you are, then you might as well take the risk. As the saying goes, you've got nothing to lose, and everything to gain!

Well, it's clear that you're just apprehensive and you're making excuses to stall.

For the choice you've presented to me here now today.

Well, there's really no choice there at all.

You can do something new with your talents venture out into realms now unknown or instead stay at home with your mind wrapped in doubt wondering, "Has another chance just been blown?"

And "So what?" if the outcome is "iffy."

Sure, your ego may suffer a bruise.

See WORST on Page 13

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Dark before dawn

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

DelRosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

A single mom sat quietly underneath a coconut tree outside her house pondering her fate. Her eyes were welling with tears as she asked, "Need it be this way?" It's a situational query but the question is representative of how patriarchs and matriarchs look ahead into a future where most everything is riddled with pessimism. The question becomes one of torture as they map-out their future piled-up with more questions than answers.

Is there room to navigate the treacherous seas of bankruptcy dragging paradise into the abyss of the Ring of Fire? Would there be an accidental redemptive period? If so, how long would that take to descend into the livelihood of simple villagers? Is divine intervention the only salvation now? Can we ask the feds to assist?

Never has the NMI so needed leadership by way of imagination and creative thinking. Yet, never has it been so lacking as we travel stealthily until it erupts like a volcano. We see it coming—mega magma in financial ruination—and even more, we can feel its presence." It started in the mid-nineties but we didn't do anything at all. It's now the eleventh hour!

With dazed minds or heads in the sand, leadership must resolve revival of the colossal loss in revenues to the tune of $900 million. This is the first order of business. Otherwise, the net effect is a wasteland of large unemployment right here in paradise. This is the most fatal issue that doesn't offer any escape route for it devours everything in its way. Is there any ray of hope on economic recovery beyond negligent dismissal in perpetuity?

There's the destabilizing effect of unemployment, i.e., loss of pride in bringing home the bacon. It is the most egregious downside to this phenomenon. Its domino effects include loss of family homes and its and subsequent inability to meet obligations. The dreadful wasteland of unemployment would be littered with jobless people illuminated by the query: How did we get here?

Beginning with next year's budget, the debate would morph from approving a "balanced budget" to just a budget where revenue projection is as erratic as the weather. The dilemma is in trying to work-up new revenue measures that would simply fail given the pessimistic investment environment here riddled with uncertainty, its genesis attributable to a long history of midstream shift in policy that encourages instability. It depicts how amateurish policymaking has landed the NMI in stifling policies versus investments.

Indeed, an island economy is a difficult issue for both sides of the Pacific Divide. Otherwise, we would b e thriving and humming by now. Guam has the military and impending build-up with billions o dollars slated to be funneled into its economic base. We don't. The only thing we have is what I've coined the "gulp syndrome"—swallowing our saliva—at all the benefits that the build-up would bring to our southern neighbor. But Guam has had a tourism plan that was constantly refined to ensure it stays competitive among destinations in the Asia/Pacific Region.

About the only hopeful optimism I have at this juncture was what my late grandma used to say, "Be patient. It's dark before dawn". I haven't stopped searching for answers to make a difference. But each trip to the plate I find a mountain pile of negative or regressive policies that have slammed investments from A-Z. It begins with land policy that has forcibly canceled the sum of at least $1.5 billion of investments in the mid-nineties.

Do we keep land policy as it is? If so, would you invest in these isles knowing that at the end of the term you would have to surrender all your investments either to the private landowner or local government? What sort of protection is provided for current and future investors? Isn't this contentious issue the very destabilizing matter on investments? If we were to keep it "as is" how do we prepare these isles for returning scholars? Isn't it true that upon their return they too would need jobs in either sector? As difficult the issue may be, we can no longer afford to bury our heads in the sand or attitude of mañana to "hopefully" settle a matter only we can decide.

"The tide waits for no man". The longer we engage in indecisions and procrastinations the harder it will be to walk against the wind-driven rain gusting heavily at the mouth of Debt Cliff. For the sake of posterity, let's adopt the abundance mentality and get to work now. Si Yuus Maase`!

Letter to the Editor

Government must share burden

Dear Chairman Basa and Chairwoman Taimanao,

A member company of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce is engaged in automobile sales and service. This company pays all fees and taxes owing to the Commonwealth government in full and on time. Between 2005 and 2009, this company experienced a severe decline in revenues, and its business gross revenue tax remittance to the Commonwealth government therefore declined by 54 percent. Furthermore, because of the decline in revenues, this company also imported fewer goods for sale in the conduct of its business, resulting in a 73-percent decrease in excise tax payments to the Commonwealth government. Also as a result of the decline in business, this company had to reduce its workforce by 36 percent. As a result of this workforce reduction, this company's withholding tax payments to the Commonwealth government declined by 68 percent.

Another member company of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce is engaged in the sale of retail consumer goods. This company pays all the fees and taxes owing to the Commonwealth government in full and on time. Between 2005 and 2009, this company experienced a severe decline in revenues, and its business gross revenue tax remittance to the Commonwealth government therefore declined by 51 percent. Furthermore, because of the decline in revenues, this company also imported fewer foods for sale or for use in the conduct of its business, resulting in 43-percent decrease in excise tax payments to the Commonwealth government. Also as a result of the decline in business, this company had to reduce its workforce by 36 percent. As a result of this workforce reduction, this company's withholding tax payments to the Commonwealth government declined by 45 percent.

Another members company of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce is engaged in transportation services. This company pays all fees and taxes owing to the Commonwealth government in full and on time. Between 2005 and 2009, this company experienced a severe decline in revenues, and its business gross revenue tax remittances to the Commonwealth government therefore declined by 52 percent. As a result of the decline in business, this company had to reduce its workforce by 29 percent. As a result of this workforce reduction, this company's withholding tax payments to the Commonwealth government declined by 18 percent.

These are just a few examples of how private sector employers and employees have been affected by the ongoing economic depression in the Commonwealth, and how the Commonwealth's general revenues have likewise suffered as a result. Aside from the human cost of laying off employees, the tax revenue losses to the Commonwealth general fund from these three companies alone is millions of dollars. There are many more businesses that have been forced to close their doors completely, and whose employees similarly lost their jobs. Those businesses no longer contribute to the general revenues of the Commonwealth at all. During this same period, between 2005 and 2009, overall Commonwealth government employment did not substantially decrease and the vast majority of employees remained unemployed on a full-time basis at full salary.

Recently, some legislators have argued that tax and fees increases, which would impact both businesses and consumers, are necessary in order to continue to employ government employees as close to full-time and as close to full salary possible. They speak of compassion and caring for government employees. Where were those legislators when private sector businesses were forced to layoff employees in order to survive? Did those legislators offer to decrease taxes asked what kind of Thanksgiving or Christmas government employees will have this year on reduced salaries? We submit that they will have a better Thanksgiving and Christmas than will the many, many unemployed former private sector employees in our community.

We do not wish reduced hours, reduced pay, reduced benefits, or unemployment on any individuals—whether private sector employee or government employee. However, in an economic depression, payroll and benefit reduction are oftentimes a necessity. Many businesses in our community to exist today only because they made difficult, but correct, decisions in this regard over the past numbers of years. Those businesses have also faced an explosion in the non-taxes costs of doing business over the past few years: a doubling of shipping cost, vastly increased utility costs, and a 66-percent increase in the minimum wage, just to name a few.

Some legislators have said that increases in taxes and fees would be good for private businesses because government employees would be able to work more hours and receive more pay to spend in those businesses. This bit of circular logic fails to acknowledge that increases in taxes and fees will result in higher prices in stores, so government employees will essentially be paying more for retail goods in order to receive more of their pay—they will be paying more to maintain their old salaries. Of course, private employees who have already had their hours and benefits cut will also be paying those same high prices, which they can no longer afford, to subsidize those government salaries. Higher wages are almost always good, but not when they cause a direct increase in the price of retail products.

One legislator has made the comment that higher "sin" taxes on items such as tobacco, alcohol, and even candy, should not be opposed by businesses because those costs will be passed directly on to the consumer and therefore won't lead to any higher cost of doing business. He also noted that raising the cost of such items might lead to decrease consumption by Commonwealth residents and, therefore, a healthier community. Putting aside the health commentary, he is correct that rising costs will lead to decreased consumption. What he fails to understand, however, is that decreased consumption will also lead to decreased excise tax payments on the import of those items, decreased business gross revenue tax payments from the companies that distribute and sell those items, and ultimately, decreased employment by those companies and decreased withholding tax payments because of decreased employments.

The Legislature has some potential solutions before it, but those solutions will take some time to implement and for results to be realized. The current budgetary crisis did not develop over the past year; it developed over the past two-and-half decades. To suggest that it can be solved overnight, with no pain experienced by government employers or employees is foolish. To argue that the overnight solution is to increase costs on businesses and consumers are more than foolish: it is dangerous. There is not a responsible business in the world that would believe an invest in the Commonwealth under current circumstances would be a prudent decision if they have watched the events of the past two weeks unfold.

Secretary of Commerce Michael Ada testified before the Senate the other night, echoing comments previously made by the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, that legitimate tax-paying, law-abiding businesses will be further harmed by this bill and will be at a greater competitive disadvantage versus the manly businesses in the Commonwealth that do not comply with business-related laws and regulations: those that do not report or under-report their taxes, those without the appropriate licenses, those who do not comply with the applicable codes, those who do not pay at least the minimum wage or who do not comply with Department of Labor hiring requirements. He is correct. The Commonwealth government's historical lack of enforcement efforts in these areas has harmed law-abiding businesses and had led to decreased government general fun revenues. We are curious to know, considering the $121 million net personnel costs of government employees, how many employees have been reassigned from non-revenue generating positions to revenue-generating enforcement positions?

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce has offered to make available individuals, from within it memberships, who have expertise in areas relevant to the many to many tax and fee increase proposals that have been floated. We have not said, "absolutely no tax or fee increases." What we have asked is that any such proposed increases be studied carefully and considered thoroughly, in order to minimize the negative impacts that come with any tax or fee increase. To suggest "Let's just try something; maybe it will work." As some legislators have urged, is irresponsible. The appropriate way to proceed would be to receive data and testimony from the relevant government departments such as the Division of Revenue and Taxation, the Department of Finance, and the Department of Commerce. Work with their employees to understand the data.

See GOVERNMENT on Page 13

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°

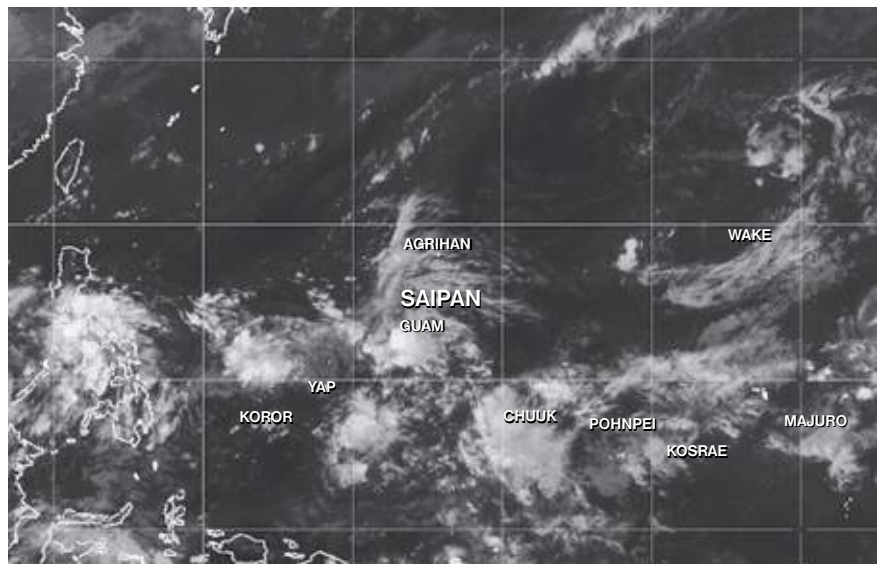
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼78
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼78
Yap	Rain	▲86	▼76
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼77
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼75
Kosrae	Showers	▲87	▼77
Majuro	Showers	▲85	▼76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲62	▼57
Beijing	Sunny	▲72	▼48
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲88	▼79
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼74
London	Partly Cloudy	▲56	▼49
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲83	▼62
Manila	Thundershowers	▲88	▼81
Melbourne	Rain	▲60	▼56
Miami	Thundershowers	▲86	▼74
New York	Showers	▲64	▼46
Osaka	Sunny	▲78	▼64
Paris	Sunny	▲59	▼45
Pusan	Sunny	▲74	▼62
Rome	Rain	▲73	▼56
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲70	▼45
San Francisco	Sunny	▲86	▼62
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲69	▼56
Tokyo	Thundershowers	▲75	▼66
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲82	▼55

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends eastward from the Philippines through a circulation northwest of Yap near 12N134E to another circulation near Guam at 13N144E. An upper low west of Pagan Island is centered near 20N140E. These features are producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms in an area from 20N144E to 14N149E to 3N142E to 12N131E back to 20N144E. A disturbance near Chuuk is causing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within 150 miles of a line from 9N151E to 4N153E. A low-level circulation west of Wake Island near 18N160E is combining with upper-level divergence to generate scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within 125 miles of a line from 19N160E to 15N164E and north of a line from 25N167E to 21N172E to 23N176E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms from east of Pohnpei across the Marshall Islands between 5N and 12N from 160E to 180. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are also within 100 miles of a line from 12N175E to 14N179E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

5:31 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
12:58 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
6:15 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet
10:32 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:08 AM	5:58 PM
Thursday	6:08 AM	5:58 PM
Friday	6:09 AM	5:57 PM
Saturday	6:09 AM	5:56 PM
Sunday	6:09 AM	5:56 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:12 AM	10:41 PM
Thursday	12:03 PM	11:35 PM
Friday	12:49 PM	
Saturday	11:03 PM	12:27 AM
Sunday	2:09 PM	1:17 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 12, 2010

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	Daily
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:00am	8:35am	Daily
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
C09316/893	2:45am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM
OZ604/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
DL287/173	6:00am	10:55pm	Daily via NRT
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	9:25pm	1, 5 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL286	3:50pm	8:25am	Daily
DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/605	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
DL172/173	7:50am	1:10am+1	Daily via NRT
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0892/9316	4:15pm	3:35am+1	3, 6 via GUM
PR110/C0596	10:00pm	7:25am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:30pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	10:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Letter to the Editor

Enforce laws before increasing taxes

I am requesting the lawmakers to shift their efforts regarding revenue generation from increasing taxes to collection of taxes.

There are enough laws out there, what is badly needed is enforcement of these laws. For example, although it is a requirement for businesses to print out a receipt for all transactions, there are many establishments that do not even have a cash register. Instead, items are added up on a hand-held calculator: no record.

How are these businesses reporting their sales to the government? How does the government confirm the amount of sales?

There are many other transactions being done without any record keeping—cash basis. How much is not being collected by the government in taxes due to no records or under reporting?

I do not have confirmation but I hear that fees from the poker machines are being under reported. It is my understanding that there are supposed to be two sets of locks per machine so that reporting is confirmed by the government. Is this being done?

Please consider enforcing the laws before increasing any of the taxes. Please make a concerted effort for six months and let us see the difference. By the way, increasing business licenses is not a solution at all but rather only adds grease to an already very, very slippery road to economic recovery.

Efrain F. Camacho
Via email

WORST

From Page 10

There's no contract, no blood, and you keep your first-born.

What the heck, you've got nothing to lose!

When you look at the possible outcomes.

This might work, though we're not quite sure how.

But, the worst that can happen is "nothing at all."

And, hello? That's what's happening now!!

■ ■ ■

Note: Walt's fans and followers may check out his new adventures on jamaicaninchina.com.

■ ■ ■

Note: Ever wanted to direct your friends and family to a set of websites that revealed the best things about Saipan? Do what I do: send them to www.bestofsaipan.com!

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!--Walt

Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.

NOT

From Page 10

appropriately. But such policing also comes with a cost.

In repeatedly slashing the budgets that counties rely on to administer state welfare programs, Sacramento has decimated many fraud and abuse detection programs. County officials work on the ground level with welfare recipients and, despite repeated state cuts to their programs, try to help mothers get job training and work placement, while also doing everything possible within their limited budgets to guard against misappropriations. They know that many recipients, especially those who try to make ends meet by living in far-flung desert and rural locations, go where goods are cheapest.

Sometimes that means feeding the family at an Indian casino's buffet, and sometimes it means shopping at the nearest Wal-Mart, which may be across the state line. It's noteworthy that of the $11 million in welfare money reported to have been spent in Las Vegas, only $1 million was spent near the Strip. Was the other $10 million spent in warehouse stores for school clothes and bulk food items? The state should find out before issuing a blanket ban on the use of ATM cards outside of California.

If the data suggest there are decisions to be made or holes to be plugged in the welfare system, they also suggest that the vast majority of recipients comply with program requirements and are doing their best to move themselves and their children out of poverty.

Of course, the state is out of money and must make many deep and painful cuts. Counties will have to get by—this year, next year and perhaps for several years to come—without the budgets they once had for rooting out public assistance fraud. But when money is in short supply, thinking must be stepped up. The state should avoid slashing access to benefits simply because there are aspects of the program that, on first blush, may look bad.

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GOVERNMENT

From Page 11

Work with tax experts to understand tax implications, and backing officials to understand economic implications. Call in private-sector managers to understand sales implications. Once you have done this, you will be in a position to make informed decisions. Is it a fast process? No. Is it the right and necessary process? Yes.

We understand and share the Legislature's concern for the wellbeing of government employees. It is a concern that businesses in the private sector also have for their own employees. However, there are fiscal and constitutional realities that must be acknowledged. If simply raising retail prices, which is what tax and fee increases would bring about, was the answer to revenue decreases, private sector businesses would never have to downsize their own workforces. The reality is, however, that after a certain point, increased prices cause a decrease in sales that offsets any tax revenue increases brought about by increased taxes and fees. Once that point is passed, the Commonwealth's overall general funds tax revenues will decrease as a result of the additional taxes and fees. We continue to stand ready to work with the Commonwealth government collaboratively on this issue, especially now that a balanced budget has been enacted.

Kyle L Calabrese
Saipan Chamber of Commerce executive director

Can you identify

THE NMI Council for the Humanities, in collaboration with the *Saipan Tribune*, is running a series of photographs in this section every Tuesday and is inviting the public to identify the persons or places featured in this section.

If you can identify the persons or places in the picture, please contact the NMI Council for the Humanities by telephone (235-4785), via email (photo@nmihumanities.org) or by visiting the Council's office located in Springs Plaza, Gualo Rai. These images are from the Council's Historic Photograph Database which is currently being developed to help document the history and cultures of the CNMI.

Last week's photo was identified as follows: front row, from left: Carmen C. Gaskins and Dolores Cruz Celis; middle row, from left: Roman C. Torres and Sophia Muna Fejeran; back row, from left: Jesus Lisua and Felix Cabrera. Identified by Bel Guerrero, Dina Torres, Ben Barcinas, and Jesus Mendiola.

SHIPPING SCHEDULE

MARIANA EXPRESS LINES PTE. LTD.

Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD P. Kelang	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung	ETD Naha
MELL SPRINGLEAF	010E	10/2 Sat	9/30 Thu	9/30 Thu	9/28 Tue	9/25 Sat	10/8 Fri	10/4 Mon	10/3 Sun	9/26 Sun	9/26 Sun	10/4 Mon	10/8 Fri	10/10 Sun	10/12 Tue
MELL SILOSO	011E	10/9 Sat	10/7 Thu	10/7 Thu	10/5 Tue	10/2 Sat	10/15 Fri	10/11 Mon	10/10 Sun	10/3 Sun	10/3 Sun	10/11 Mon	10/15 Fri	10/17 Sun	10/19 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	045E	10/16 Sat	10/14 Thu	10/14 Thu	10/12 Tue	10/9 Sat	10/22 Fri	10/18 Mon	10/17 Sun	10/10 Sun	10/10 Sun	10/18 Mon	10/22 Fri	10/24 Sun	10/26 Tue
MELL SPRINGLEAF	011E	10/23 Sat	10/21 Thu	10/21 Thu	10/19 Tue	10/16 Sat	10/29 Fri	10/25 Mon	10/24 Sun	10/17 Sun	10/17 Sun	10/25 Mon	10/29 Fri	10/31 Sun	11/2 Tue
MELL SILOSO	012E	10/30 Sat	10/28 Thu	10/28 Thu	10/26 Tue	10/23 Sat	11/5 Fri	11/1 Mon	10/31 Sun	10/24 Sun	10/24 Sun	11/1 Mon	11/5 Fri	11/7 Sun	11/9 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	046E	11/6 Sat	11/4 Thu	11/4 Thu	11/2 Tue	10/30 Sat	11/12 Fri	11/8 Mon	11/7 Sun	10/31 Sun	10/31 Sun	11/8 Mon	11/12 Fri	11/14 Sun	11/16 Tue

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETD Guam	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA Davao	ETA GenSan	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
MELL SPRINGLEAF	010E	10/16 Sat	10/17 Sun	10/17 Sun	10/19 Tue	10/20 Wed	10/22 Fri	10/24 Sun	SKIP	10/29 Fri	10/30 Sat	11/4 Thu	11/23 Tue	11/7 Sun	11/3 Wed
MELL SILOSO	011E	10/23 Sat	10/24 Sun	10/24 Sun	SKIP	10/27 Wed	10/29 Fri	10/31 Sun	SKIP	11/5 Fri	11/6 Sat	11/11 Thu	11/30 Tue	11/14 Sun	11/10 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	045E	10/30 Sat	10/31 Sun	10/31 Sun	11/2 Tue	11/3 Wed	11/5 Fri	11/7 Sun	SKIP	11/12 Fri	11/13 Sat	11/18 Thu	12/7 Tue	11/21 Sun	11/17 Wed
MELL SPRINGLEAF	011E	11/6 Sat	11/7 Sun	11/7 Sun	SKIP	11/10 Wed	11/12 Fri	11/14 Sun	SKIP	11/19 Fri	11/20 Sat	11/25 Thu	12/14 Tue	11/28 Sun	11/24 Wed
MELL SILOSO	012E	11/13 Sat	11/14 Sun	11/14 Sun	11/14 Sun	11/17 Wed	11/19 Fri	11/21 Sun	SKIP	11/26 Fri	11/27 Sat	12/2 Thu	12/21 Tue	12/5 Sun	12/1 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	046E	11/20 Sat	11/21 Sun	11/21 Sun	SKIP	11/24 Wed	11/26 Fri	11/28 Sun	SKIP	12/3 Fri	12/4 Sat	12/9 Thu	12/28 Tue	12/12 Sun	12/8 Wed

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Business

Senior citizens brace for Social Security freeze

BOCA RATON, Fla. (AP)—Seniors prepared to cut back on everything from food to charitable donations to whiskey as word spread Monday that they will have to wait until at least 2012 to see their Social Security checks increase.

The government is expected to announce this week that more than 58 million Social Security recipients will go through a second straight year without an increase in monthly benefits. This year was the first without an increase since automatic adjustments for inflation started in 1975.

"I think it's disgusting," said Paul McNeil, 69, a retired state worker from Warwick, R.I., who said his food and utility costs have gone up, but his income has not. He lamented decisions by lawmakers that he said do not favor seniors.

"They've got this idea that they've got to save money and basically they want to take it out of the people that will give them the least resistance," he said.

Cost-of-living adjustments are automatically set by a measure adopted by Congress in the 1970s that orders raises based on the Consumer Price Index, which measures inflation. If inflation is negative, as in 2009 and 2010, payments remain unchanged.

AP

Jack Dawson, right, gestures as he speaks during an interview as Everett Rawlings, rear, looks on, at the St. Andrews Estates North retirement community, Monday, Oct. 11, 2010 in Boca Raton, Fla.

Still, seniors like McNeil said they'll be thinking about the issue when they go to vote, and experts said the news comes at a bad time for Democrats already facing potentially big losses in November. Seniors are the most loyal of voters, and their support is especially important during midterm elections, when turnout is generally lower.

"If you're the ruling party, this is not the sort of thing you want to have happening two weeks before an election," said Andrew Biggs, a former deputy commissioner at the Social Security Administration and now a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute.

At St. Andrews Estates North, a Boca Raton retirement community, seniors largely took the news in stride, saying they don't blame Washington for the lack of an increase. Most are also collecting pensions or other income, but even so, they prepared to tighten their belts.

Bette Baldwin won't be able to travel or help her children as much. Dorcas Eppright will give less to charity. Jack Dawson will buy cheap whiskey instead of his beloved Canadian Club.

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax. (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Bank of Guam

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff,	Civil Action No. 08-0349-CV
vs.	SECOND NOTICE OF SALE
JESUS S. BARCINAS, Defendant.	

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to a Writ of Execution issued by the Court in this matter on May 14, 2010, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in the following property.

1) Lot EA 120-2, located in As Falipe, Garapan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 2,165 square meters, more or less; and

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on October 22, 2010, at the hour of 10:00 am, at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public and will be held in reserve.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c) To reject any and all bids.

2. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, PO Box 5003758 CK, Saipan, MP 9695, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749.

3. Deposit; Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash or cashier's check. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to the Bank of Guam.

4. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and the Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

5. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 13th day of September, 2010.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax. (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff,	Civil Action No. 08-0214-CV
vs.	SECOND NOTICE OF SALE
LAURA I. MANGLONA and THOMAS M. MANGLONA, Defendants.	

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on July 23, 2010, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in the following property: Lot No. 003 R 30 (formerly known as Block 31, Lot 6), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 003 R 00, the original of which was registered on November 12, 1971 as Document No. 1290 at Land Registry, Saipan, situated on Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 651 square meters, more or less, and recorded at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office on September 12, 1996 as Document No. 96-2289.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on October 29, 2010, at the hour of 10:00 am, at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public and will be held in reserve.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c) To reject any and all bids.

2. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, PO Box 5003758 CK, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749.

3. Deposit; Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to the Bank of Guam.

4. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and the Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

5. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 30th day of September, 2010.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

Dialogue on CDA Matters

hosted by:
CDA Board of Directors

Friday, October 15, 2010
American Memorial Park
Visitor Center
9:00am - 3:30pm

Live Video Teleconference:
Rota – NMC Campus, Rm. A2
Tinian – NMC Campus, Rm. C

Light refreshments will be served.

RSVP to Christy or Espie at the
Commonwealth Development Authority
at 234-6245 or 234-7145

Survey: Hawaii tourism continues to recover

HONOLULU (AP)—Hawaii's tourism industry continues to recover from the Great Recession, according to the results of a new survey by a hotel, tourism and real estate consulting services firm. Hospitality Advisors LLC said Monday that its survey found statewide hotel occupancy averaged 75.7 percent in August, a 6.3 percent increase over August 2009, while the average daily room rate rose by 1.8 percent to $181.49.

The rate increase combined with the occupancy gains to lead to an 11.1 percent increase in Hawaii's room revenues per available room, or RevPAR, to $137.39, the firm said.

The August results capped a relatively strong summer compared with last year's weak summer season due to the severe economic downturn, the company said.

"Hawaii's summer season has enjoyed substantial improvement over the last two years, and Waikiki in particular has had several sold out periods during the summer, which is something we haven't seen in a long while," Hospitality Advisors President and CEO Joseph Toy said.

However, Toy cautioned that while the percentage gains appear strong, the comparisons are being made against a weak 2009.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

IBM rides market upswing to hit all-time high

NEW YORK (AP)—IBM shares hit an all-time high Monday. The stock rode a slight market upswing, climbing as high as $139.88 before closing at $139.66, up 81 cents for the day. The previous high was $139.19, reached during the dot-com boom on July 13, 1999. The rise comes after IBM Corp. shares spent much of this year going sideways as concerns about European government debt and a sluggish economic recovery in the U.S. weighed on markets.

Gap's logo back to blue after fans gripe about new

NEW YORK (AP)—Gap is back to blue. The casualwear chain will keep its decades-old white-on-navy blue logo after all. The move comes just one week after the company swapped it online for a new logo without saying a word. The new logo irritated fans, spurring them to complain about it online. Gap North America president Marka Hansen said in a statement late Monday that the San Francisco-based company realized how much people liked the old logo after they put up the new one, a white background with black letters and a little blue box. She also says Gap didn't handle the change correctly and missed a chance to have shoppers offer input until it was too late.

Microsoft bets big on new phone software

NEW YORK (AP)—Microsoft Corp. knows the cell phone world is where it's happening, and it's determined to be a part of it. After years of declining sales of phones based on Microsoft's Windows Mobile software, the company is starting with a fresh slate—a completely new operating system for phones. The new handsets will go up against Apple Inc.'s highly popular iPhone and the expanding number of phones running on Google Inc.'s Android operating system. The first phone with Windows Phone 7 will be the Samsung Focus, which hits AT&T Inc. stores Nov. 8 for $200 with a two-year contract requirement, Microsoft said Monday. It will be closely followed by two more phones for AT&T, made by LG Electronics Inc. and HTC Corp., and one for T-Mobile USA, also made by HTC.

Nation

Diamond wins Nobel, but still blocked on Fed job

WASHINGTON (AP)—Peter Diamond's research on unemployment is good enough to earn him the Nobel Prize in economics—but not to get him on the Federal Reserve.

Diamond, an economist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and two other economists were honored Monday for their work in explaining why unemployment can remain high despite large numbers of job openings—a trend that is playing out today.

The other economists were Dale Mortensen, an economics professor at Northwestern University, and Christopher Pissarides, a professor at the London School of Economics. The three men will share the $1.5 million prize.

President Barack Obama nominated Diamond to the Fed in late April. But Senate Republicans have blocked his nomination, questioning his practical experience, as well as the conclusions of his research.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology economics professor Peter A. Diamond during a news conference in Cambridge, Mass., after learning he is one of three economists to win the 2010 Nobel Prize in economics Monday morning, Oct. 11, 2010. AP

In the early 1980s, Diamond wrote a paper that found federal unemployment insurance helps companies land job seekers with the right skills by allowing the unemployed to hold out for the right opportunity.

Some Republicans argue that extending unemployment benefits—as Congress has done on multiple occasions since the recession—can actually make unemployment worse by taking away the incentives to finding work. Liberal economists dismiss that.

Sen. Richard Shelby of Alabama, the senior Republican on the Senate Banking Committee, has been blocking Diamond's nomination to the Fed for months. Shelby says Diamond lacks expertise in so-called monetary policy—the setting of interest rates and other tools that are used to influence the nation's economic growth, employment and inflation.

"While the Nobel Prize for economics is a significant recognition, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences does not determine who is qualified to serve on the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System," Shelby said Monday.

Explosives found at NY cemetery in '09 cause scare

NEW YORK (AP)—A caretaker doing gardening work at a historic cemetery dug up a plastic garbage bag containing military-grade explosives last year and left it at the site, where it remained until a volunteer told authorities about it Monday, setting off a big police response.

The employee found the C-4 in May or June 2009 after digging down about a foot into the ground at New York City Marble Cemetery on Manhattan's Lower East Side, Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly said. It contained eight bricks of the explosive, which Kelly said couldn't have gone off because there were nothing to detonate it. The spot was near a tombstone but not in a grave.

It was unclear how long the bag had been at the cemetery, but "we believe it's been there for a significant period of time," Kelly said. He said it appeared to be military-grade explosive similar to the material used in the 2005 London transit bombings but that there were no suspicions of terrorism in connection to the discovery.

The caretaker left the bag on the property, by a fence in the back. "It's not clear at this time whether he understood precisely what was in the bag," Kelly said.

More than a year later, a volunteer cleaning the cemetery, a landmark built in 1831, came across it over the weekend and initially left it there before calling police on Monday because it wasn't clear what the material was. Authorities closed nearby streets as they investigated.

ACROSS THE NATION

NYC police arrest 9th suspect in anti-gay beatings

NEW YORK (AP)—Police on Monday arrested the ninth and final suspect in the brutal attacks on four people touched off because gang members thought one of their recruits was gay. Ruddy Vargas-Perez, 22, was arrested by members of the Bronx violent felony squad at a relative's house after his attorney had told authorities he would be surrendering to police on Tuesday. He had failed previously to show up as promised. Vargas-Perez and eight others were accused of robbery, harassment and sexual abuse after the Oct. 3 attacks. Police say he participated in at least one of the attacks along with the others from his street gang, the Latin King Goonies.

Police dogs smell remains at missing girl's house

HICKORY, N.C. (AP)—Investigators cast doubt Monday on accounts given by the father and stepmother of a missing 10-year-old whose battles with bone cancer left her with a prosthetic leg and hearing aids in both ears. A search warrant revealed Monday that police dogs had detected the smell of remains on cars belonging to the couple. Hours earlier, the police chief said investigators were having trouble finding anyone outside the household who had seen Zahra Clare Baker alive in the last few weeks.

The warrant filed in a Hickory court didn't indicate that police found any remains in their search Sunday. It said the dogs detected the smell on a sedan and SUV.

Ohio GOP candidate defends Nazi re-enactments

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—A Republican congressional candidate from Ohio, countering criticism from a House GOP leader, said Monday that he did nothing wrong by wearing a Nazi uniform while participating in World War II re-enactments. Rich Iott told The Associated Press in an interview that he took part in the historical re-enactments to educate the public, and does not agree with the Nazis' views or their actions against Jews.

Asked whether it was wrong to wear a Nazi uniform, Iott said: "I don't see anything wrong about educating the public about events that happened. And that's the whole purpose of historical re-enacting."

To My Fellow Citizens of the Commonwealth:

In my decades of politics, I can think of no election more important and critical to the future of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and its place in the American political family than the upcoming election that will be held on November 2nd. I do not need to recount for you the economic difficulties the CNMI has faced with the closure of our garment industry and the severe downturn in our tourism industry. Lack of job opportunities has forced our youth—indeed whole families—to leave our islands in search of a better life on Guam, in Hawaii or on the Mainland.

We are truly blessed to be part of the greatest and most powerful country in the world because we are afforded protection both from not only threats to our physical security but our economic security as well, but we need effective representation in Washington to protect our position.

We are not getting that representation with Delegate Gregorio Camacho Sablan.

There are four candidates running for congressional delegate this year but one man stands out above all the rest.

After having served as CNMI's first Resident Representative to the United States in Washington, in the years that followed I served as an advisor to a Member of Congress, which gave me vast insight into the inner workings of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress. Subsequently, I served as an advisor to two CNMI Resident Representatives, advising them on their relations with both the Legislative and Executive Branches of the Federal Government, among other things.

During his 12 years as our Resident Representative, Juan Nekai Babauta distinguished himself as a man who could work in a bipartisan environment and develop important relationships across the aisle for the betterment of the CNMI. Moreover, he laid the important groundwork for the creation of the very office he is seeking in November: CNMI's non-voting delegate to Congress.

Whether Republicans or Democrats hold the majority in the next two years in Washington, there is no question it will be a narrow majority for either side. No longer will congressional leadership be able to ram bills through the House of Representatives the way the current Democrat majority jammed minimum wage and federalization down our throats.

The new congressional environment will call for some very delicate diplomacy and a reservoir of friendships. With his long experience in Washington, only Juan Nekai Babauta possesses those skills and had developed those friendships.

That is why I urge you with my strongest possible recommendation to vote for Juan Nekai Babauta this November 2, 2010. His election is the key to stabilizing our relations with the Federal government and making certain that we no longer are surprised by developments such as the Interior Department's recommendation that our long term alien residents be granted U.S. citizenship. Only Congress could approve such a change and only Juan Nekai Babauta can undertake the delicate negotiations needed to make sure our interests and our islands are protected.

Sincerely,

Edward Pangelinan

Edward DLG. Pangelinan
A Founding Father of the CNMI

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Juan Nekai Babauta. Shelly Ann Tudela, Treasurer

Asia

China tries to calm nerves at Asia meeting

AP

Chinese Defense Minister Liang Guanglie walks past Vietnamese Navy's sailors as he reviews an honor guard during a welcoming ceremony prior to the opening of the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Defense Ministers meeting with their main counterparts in Hanoi,

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—China worked to calm nerves Tuesday as it gathered with Asian neighbors, the U.S. and other countries for a security meeting amid tensions over Beijing's recent attempts to assert more control over disputed territory on the high seas.

Several countries in the region have expressed concern over increasingly aggressive maritime moves by the Communist giant, including events surrounding a collision last month in the East China Sea that plunged relations between China and Japan to a five-year low.

"China's defense development is not aimed to challenge or threaten anyone, but to ensure its security and promote international and regional peace and stability," Chinese Gen. Liang Guanglie said Tuesday in a speech to his counterparts. "Security of a country relies not only on self-defense capabilities, but also on mutual trust with others."

Defense ministers from the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations, along with their counterparts from the United States, China, Russia, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, India and South Korea attended the meeting Tuesday in Vietnam's capital.

The event "takes place in the backdrop of a regional and international situation which has seen rapid and complicated developments," Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung said. "We are often faced with grave security challenges, both traditional and nontraditional."

A day earlier, Liang met with U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, ending a Beijing-imposed freeze on military contacts meant to protest a $6.4 billion U.S. arms package for Taiwan, the self-governing island that China claims as its own territory.

After the meeting, Gates said he accepted a formal invitation to visit Beijing, which will likely come early next year.

Furious China blocks visit to Nobel winner's wife

BEIJING (AP)—China blocked European officials from meeting with the wife of the imprisoned Nobel Peace Prize winner, cut off her phone communication and kept her under house arrest—acting on its fury over the award.

As China retaliated, U.N. human rights experts called on Beijing to free democracy campaigner Liu Xiaobo from prison. Liu, a slight, 54-year-old literary critic, is in the second year of an 11-year prison term after being convicted of inciting subversion.

He was permitted a brief, tearful meeting in prison with his wife Sunday and said dedicated the award to the "lost souls" of the 1989 military crackdown on student demonstrators.

In naming him, the Norwegian-based Nobel committee honored Liu's more than two decades of advocacy of human rights and peaceful democratic change—from demonstrations for democracy at Beijing's Tiananmen Square in 1989 to a manifesto for political reform that he co-authored in 2008 and which led to his latest prison term.

On Tuesday, U.S. officials said they were closely following the situation of Liu's wife, Liu Xia. "We remain concerned by multiple reports that Liu Xia is being confined to her home in Beijing," an U.S. Embassy spokesman, Richard Buangan, wrote in response to questions. "Her rights should be respected, and she should be allowed to move freely without harassment."

The Beijing public security bureau and the foreign ministry had no immediate comment on why authorities were apparently restricting her movements since she has not been charged with anything. But "soft detention" is a common tactic used by the Chinese government to intimidate and stifle activists and critics.

Beijing reacted angrily to Friday's announcement awarding the Nobel Peace Prize to Liu, calling him a criminal and warning Norway's government that relations would suffer, even though the Nobel committee is an independent organization. On Monday, it abruptly canceled a meeting that had been scheduled for Wednesday between visiting Norwegian Fisheries Minister Lisbeth Berg-Hansen and her Chinese counterpart.

European diplomats were prevented from visiting Liu's wife, Liu Xia, who has been living under house arrest since Friday. Liu Xia has been told that if she wants to leave her home, she must be escorted in a police car, the New York-based group Human Rights in China said.

She has reported that her phone communications, along with her Internet, has been cut off; both her and her brother's mobile phones have been interfered with, HRIC said.

Simon Sharpe, the first secretary of political affairs of the EU delegation in China, said he went to see Liu Xia at her home in Beijing to personally deliver a letter of congratulations from European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso.

Philippines lifts criminal cases on botched rescue

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine president Monday spared top police and security officials from criminal prosecution for a bungled hostage rescue in which eight Hong Kong tourists died, drawing criticism from a survivor.

President Benigno Aquino III said seven officials instead would face administrative actions. The National Police Commission and the Interior Department would investigate them for administrative lapses including gross incompetence, neglect of duty and misconduct. Possible sanctions include dismissal without pay.

A fired police officer, Rolando Mendoza, took dozens of Hong Kong tourists hostage on a bus in August to push his demand that he be reinstated. The drama played out for 11 hours before the gunman opened fire at the hostages and police finally broke into the bus and killed him.

In Hong Kong, a survivor who was freed in the early hours of the hostage-taking, was upset that Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim escaped criminal charges.

"He made the most mistakes. He is the leader, so he should be punished. Now the government has just found a few scapegoats," 72-year-old Li Yick-biu told reporters.

Chinese and Hong Kong officials did not immediately react Monday, but the bungled rescue has damaged their relations with the Philippines. They warned against travel there, and thousands of tourists canceled bookings.

Aquino, less than two months into a presidency he pledged would fight corruption and incompetence, sought to placate leaders in China and Hong Kong with an investigation he said was conducted with speed and fairness.

"I pledged from the very start that there would be accountability," Aquino told reporters Monday, adding that apart from the administrative action, the government was taking steps to improve the training of security forces.

Adopting most of the recommendations of a fact-finding committee led by the justice secretary, Aquino said he was backing the initiation of administrative proceedings against Manila police chief Rodolfo Magtibay, police director Leocadio Santiago, Lim as well as two senior police operatives.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The 2008 and 2009 Annual Reports for the Marianas Public Land Trust are now available at www.mplt.gov.mp.

Copies are also available at 1313 Anatahan Drive Capital Hill.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Cambodia denies Thai assasination plot allegations

BANGKOK (AP)—Cambodia on Tuesday strongly denied allegations in Thailand that members of the anti-government Red Shirt movement were trained in Cambodian territory to assassinate top Thai leaders, including the prime minister. A senior Thai security official alleged Monday that 11 men who were arrested last week in the northern Thai province of Chiang Mai were among 39 given ideological and combat training in a "neighboring country." Lt. Col. Payao Thongsen, a senior investigator for the Department of Special Investigation, did not name the country when he made the allegation at a news conference. But he described the routes the men allegedly took to their training ground, which led to Cambodian border crossings.

US rescuers may have killed Afghanistan aid worker

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—At first, NATO blamed a Taliban bomb for the death of a captive British aid worker during an American rescue attempt in eastern Afghanistan. Two days later, the coalition changed its account, saying Monday that U.S. forces may have detonated a grenade that killed Linda Norgrove during the operation to free her. British Prime Minister David Cameron defended Friday's rescue mission, saying his government authorized it only after learning that Norgrove's life was in grave danger. The U.S. military, which carried out the raid because the aid worker was being held in a region under American command, said it would investigate the incident with British cooperation.

World

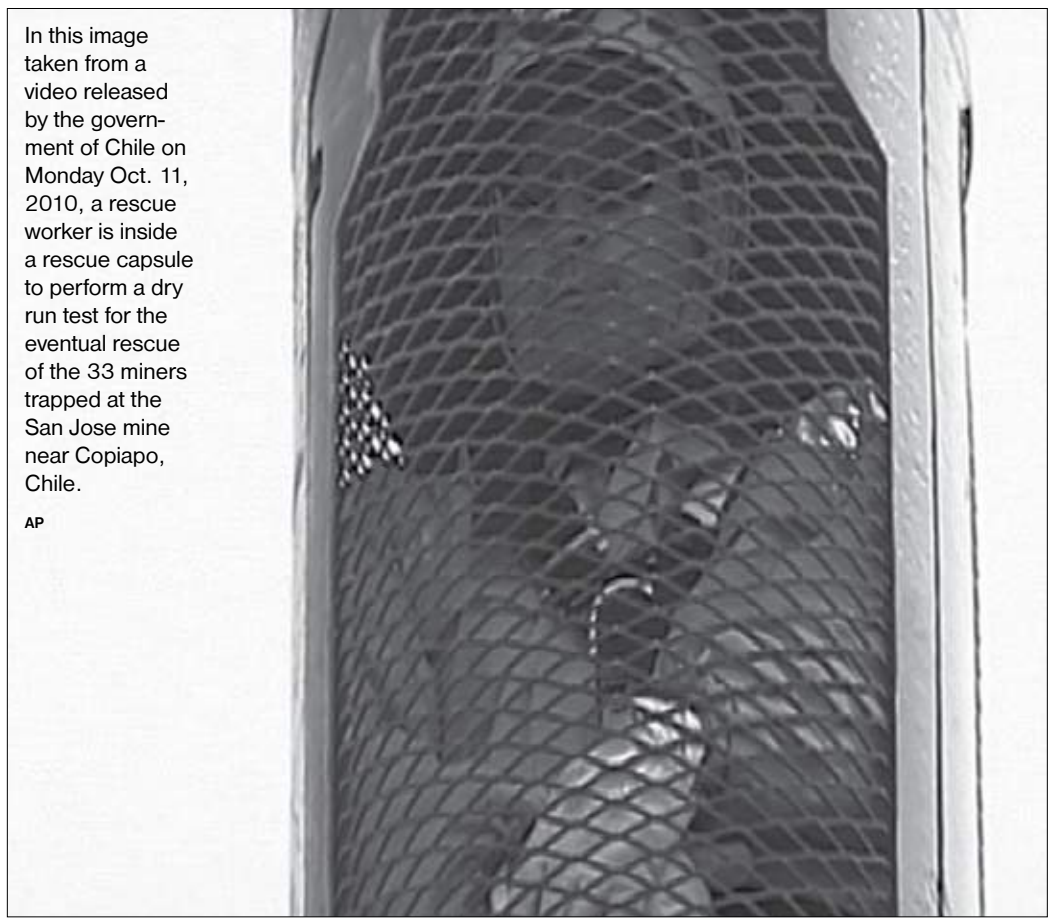
Dramatic endgame nears for trapped Chile miners

SAN JOSE MINE, Chile (AP)—They'll come up one by one in green overalls bearing their names on their chests—first the fittest, then the weakest, twisting in a steel cage that proved itself with four flawless test runs deep into the earth.

The dramatic endgame hastened Monday for the 33 Chilean miners who have braved two months underground, with rescuers reinforcing the escape shaft and the 13-foot-tall rescue chamber sliding, as planned, nearly all the way to the trapped men.

"It didn't even raise any dust," Mining Minister Laurence Golborne said.

If all goes well, everything will be in place late Tuesday to begin pulling the men out, officials said. The lead psychologist for the rescue team recommended the extractions begin at dawn Wednesday. No official decision was announced, but Andre Sougarret, the rescue team coordinator, tweeted Monday evening that "today the miners sleep their last night together!"



In this image taken from a video released by the government of Chile on Monday Oct. 11, 2010, a rescue worker is inside a rescue capsule to perform a dry run test for the eventual rescue of the 33 miners trapped at the San Jose mine near Copiapo, Chile.

AP

On Monday, the Phoenix I capsule—the biggest of three built by Chilean navy engineers, named for the mythic bird that rose from ashes—made its first test run after the top 180 feet of the shaft was encased in tubing, the rescue leader said.

Then the empty capsule was winched 2,000 feet, just 40 feet short of the shaft system that has been the miners' refuge since an Aug. 5 collapse.

"We didn't send it (all the way) down because we could risk that someone will jump in," a grinning Golborne told reporters.

Engineers had planned to extend the piping nearly twice as far, but they decided to stop after the sleeve—the hole is angled 11 degrees off vertical at its top before plumbing down, like a waterfall—became jammed during a probe.

Rescue team psychologist Alberto Iturra said he recommended the first man be pulled out at dawn because the miners are to be taken by Chilean air force helicopters to the nearby city of Copiapo and fog tends to enshroud the mine at night.

It is a roughly 10-minute flight, said Lt. Col. Aldo Carbone, the choppers' squadron commander. He said the pilots have night-vision goggles but will not fly unless it is clear. Ambulances will be ready for backup. The drive would take about an hour.

Officials have drawn up a secret list of which miners should come out first, but the order could change after paramedics and a mining expert first descend in the capsule to evaluate the men and oversee the journey upward.

First out will be the four fittest of frame and mind, said health minister Jaime Manalich. Should glitches occur, these men will be best prepared to ride them out and tell their comrades what to expect.

Hungary firm head detained over toxic sludge

DEVECSER, Hungary (AP)—Hungarian police have detained the director of the aluminum company responsible for a flood of caustic red sludge that killed eight people when it burst from its reservoir last week, the prime minister said Monday.

Police said they were questioning managing director Zoltan Bakonyi on suspicion of public endangerment causing multiple deaths and environmental damage.

Prime Minister Viktor Orban told parliament that the government wanted to take over MAL Rt., the Hungarian Aluminum Production and Trade Company, because the safe restart of production at the alumina plant was needed to save the jobs of thousands of workers.

Orban said his administration was also freezing the company's assets to ensure that funds were available to compensate for the damages caused by the disaster.

"Since this is not a natural catastrophe but the damage was brought about by people, the damages must be paid first and foremost not by taxpayers but by those who caused the damage," Orban told lawmakers.

Late last week, Bakonyi said that MAL Rt. had not noticed anything irregular at the site.

"The reservoir—which our men patrol daily—did not show any physical signs that something of this nature could happen," Bakonyi said.

Orban, however, said the government had other suspicions.

"We have well-founded reasons to believe that there were people who knew about the dangerous weakening of the reservoir wall, but for personal reasons they thought it wasn't worth repairing and hoped there'd be no trouble," Orban said.

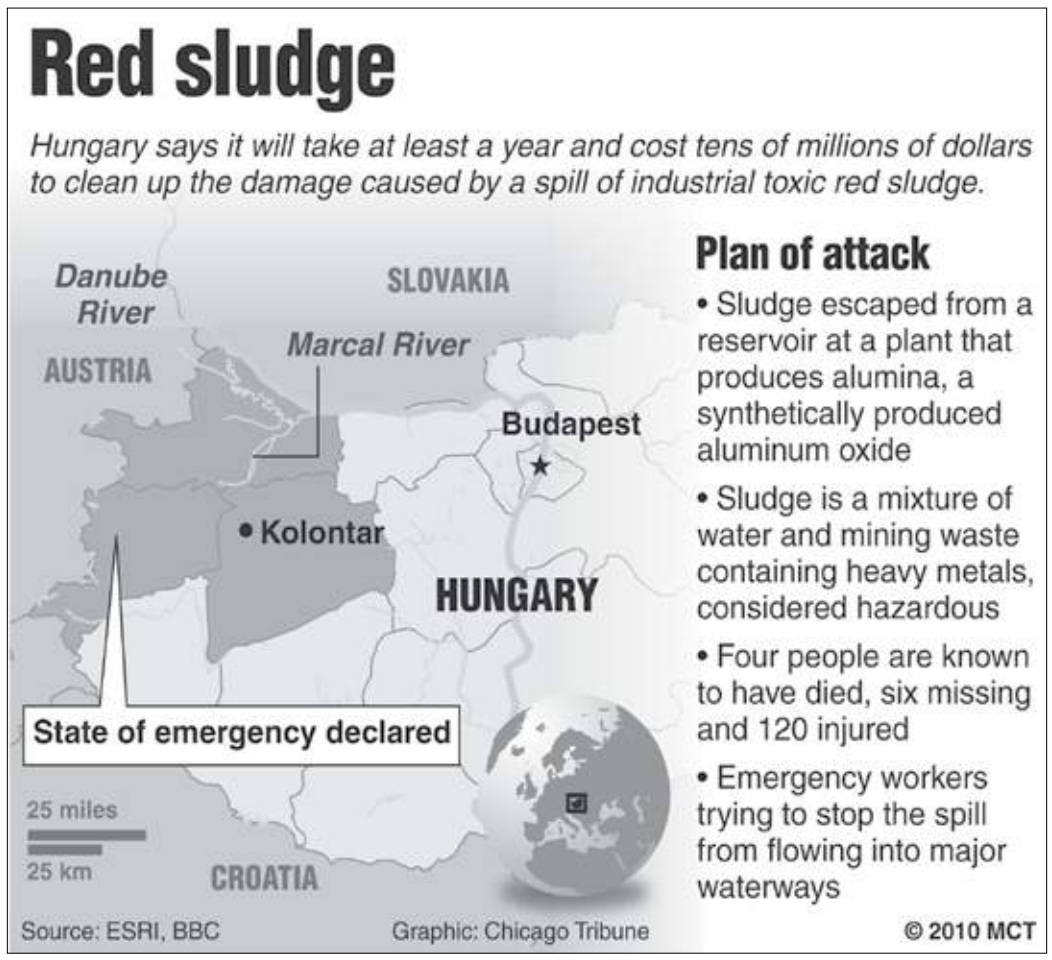
On Sunday, MAL Rt. said it was willing to pay compensation "in proportion to its responsibility" for the damage caused by the deluge.

Late Monday, parliament passed a proposal giving the government the power to take over any company involved in a catastrophe, including the red sludge spill.

While the opposition Socialists voted in favor of the plan, former Socialist Prime Minister Ferenc Gyurcsany said the bill would give the government too much control.

"The government is asking for authorization to take away by decree whatever it wants, whenever it wants and from whomever it wants and do with it anything it wants without any responsibility," Gyurcsany wrote on his blog. "This in not simply unconstitutional, it is immoral and an atrocity."

In Devecser, one of several towns hit by the flood a week ago and where many people are employed at the alumina plant, Bakonyi's detention was met by mixed feelings.


Red sludge
Hungary says it will take at least a year and cost tens of millions of dollars to clean up the damage caused by a spill of industrial toxic red sludge.
Danube River
SLOVAKIA
Marcal River
AUSTRIA
Budapest
Kolontar
HUNGARY
State of emergency declared
25 miles
25 km
CROATIA
Plan of attack
• Sludge escaped from a reservoir at a plant that produces alumina, a synthetically produced aluminum oxide
• Sludge is a mixture of water and mining waste containing heavy metals, considered hazardous
• Four people are known to have died, six missing and 120 injured
• Emergency workers trying to stop the spill from flowing into major waterways
Source: ESRI, BBC
Graphic: Chicago Tribune
© 2010 MCT

WORLD BRIEFS

African leaders buying human albino parts: group

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—A lobby group says politicians are involved in the trade of human albino body parts in Africa and use them as charms to bring them good fortune. Albino body parts are sold for hundreds and sometimes thousands of dollars in parts of Africa. Coumba Makalou, president of the U.S.-based Salif Keita Global Foundation, a group that advocates for albinos' rights, says those who pay for body parts include rich businessmen and politicians looking to improve their political fortunes. Makalou says body parts sell for as much as $2,000. At least 57 albinos have been killed in Tanzania and 14 in Burundi since 2007. Thousands of albinos are estimated to live in hiding. The killings are fueled by superstitious beliefs that human albino body parts will bring wealth and success.

Iran's hardliners target moderate stronghold

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran's leader issued a decree Monday paving the way for a state takeover of the country's largest private university, in a crushing blow to the nation's moderates. The Islamic Azad University is the center of power for former President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, a pragmatist and key supporter of Iran's moderates. The institution, which was founded in 1982, was a major site for opposition protests against the 2009 disputed re-election of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, which opponents say was fraudulent. Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's decree declared the university's endowment, which keeps it financially independent, to be religiously illegitimate and therefore null and void.

8 police killed in ambush in northern Mexico

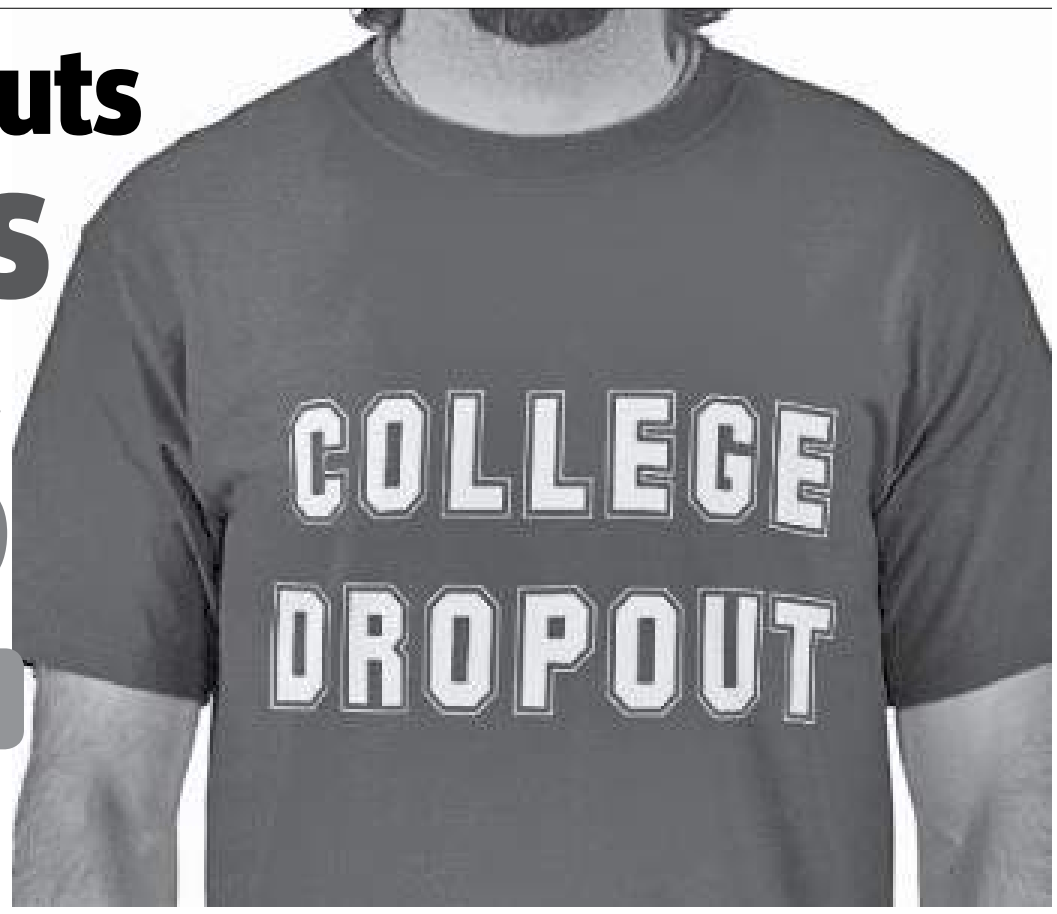
MEXICO CITY (AP)—Eight police officers have been killed in an ambush in northern Mexico. An official at the Sinaloa state attorney general's office says gunmen attacked four police cars on a highway in the town of Navolato on Monday. A ninth officer was wounded. The official says the gunmen fled, although police found a vehicle several miles (kilometers) from the site that may have belonged to the attackers. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because of security reasons. Sinaloa is the cradle of a powerful cartel by the same name. Meanwhile, in the border city of Tijuana, police found the decapitated bodies of two men hung by their feet off a bridge. Their heads were found in a car abandoned on the bridge.

Tropical Storm Paula threatens Honduras, Mexico

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP)—Honduran emergency officials urged coastal residents to evacuate low-lying areas Monday and Mexico issued a hurricane warning as Tropical Storm Paula battered the Caribbean coast with strong winds and rain. Paula formed Monday off Honduras and was expected to develop into a hurricane by Tuesday, said the National Hurricane Center in Miami, Florida. It had winds of 70 mph (110 kph) and was centered about 90 miles (140 kilometers) east-northeast of Isla Guanaja, Honduras, the center said. Paula is expected to dump from 3 to 6 inches (8 to 15 centimeters) of rain in eastern Honduras, the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico and northern Belize, it said.

Campus Life

Report: College dropouts cost taxpayers billions



By ERIC GORSKI
AP EDUCATION WRITER

Dropping out of college after a year can mean lost time, burdensome debt and an uncertain future for students.

Now there's an estimate of what it costs taxpayers. And it runs in the billions.

States appropriated almost $6.2 billion for four-year colleges and universities between 2003 and 2008 to help pay for the education of students who did not return for year two, a report released Monday says. In addition, the federal government spent $1.5 billion and states spent $1.4 billion on grants for students who didn't start their sophomore years, according to "Finishing the First Lap: The Cost of First-Year Student Attrition in America's Four-Year Colleges and Universities."

The dollar figures, based on government data and gathered by the nonprofit American Institutes for Research, are meant to put an economic exclamation point on the argument that college completion rates need improvement.

But the findings also could give ammunition to critics who say too many students are attending four-year schools—and that pushing them to finish wastes even more taxpayer money.

The Obama administration, private foundations and others are driving a shift from focusing mostly on making college more accessible to getting more students through with a diploma or certificate.

Mark Schneider, a vice president at the American Institutes for Research and former commissioner of the Education Department's National Center for Education Statistics, said the report's goal is to spotlight the costs of losing students after year one, the most common exit door in college.

Online
http://collegemeasures.org/

"We're all about college completion right now, and I agree 100 percent with the college completion agenda and we need a better-educated adult population and workforce," Schneider said.

The report takes into account spending on average per-student state appropriations, state grants and federal grants, such as Pell grants for low-income students, then reaches its cost conclusions based on student retention rates.

The cost of educating students who drop out after one year account for between 2 to 8 percent of states' total higher education appropriations, Schneider said. He said the report emphasizes state spending because states provide most higher education money and hold the most regulatory sway over institutions and can drive change.

Ohio, for example, has moved toward using course and degree completion rates in determining how much money goes to its public colleges and universities instead of solely using enrollment figures.

"We recognize an institution is not going to be perfect on graduation and completion rates," said Eric Fingerhut, chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents. "But at the same time, we know they can do better than they're doing. And if you place the financial rewards around completion, then you will motivate that."

The AIR report draws from Department of Education data, which Schneider concedes does not provide a full picture.

The figures track whether new full-time students at 1,521 public and private colleges and universities return for year two at the same institution. It doesn't include part-timers, transfers or students who come back later and graduate.

The actual cost to taxpayers may run two to three times higher given those factors and others, including the societal cost of income lost during dropouts' year in college, said Richard Vedder, an Ohio University economics professor. And tying state appropriations to student performance could just cause colleges to lower their standards, he said.

Robert Lerman, an American University economics professor who, like Vedder, questions promoting college for all, said the report fleshes out the reality of high dropout rates. But he said it could just as easily be used to argue that less-prepared, less-motivated students are better off not going to college.

"Getting them to go a second year might waste even more money," Lerman said. "Who knows?"

Study: Students learning abroad increase drinking

By DONNA GORDON BLANKINSHIP
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

Online
Psychology of Addictive Behaviors: http://www.apa.org/pubs/journals/adb/

SEATTLE (AP)—Students who go abroad while in college are likely to increase or even double their alcohol intake while they're away, a new study has found.

Drinking increased most dramatically in Europe, Australia and New Zealand, the study by researchers at the University of Washington found. Students reported drinking more when they perceived their fellow travelers were drinking more heavily, and those who planned to make drinking part of their cultural immersion did so.

The study published in the current issue of Psychology of Addictive Behaviors looked only at drinking habits of students who went abroad from the University of Washington, but UW graduate student Eric Pedersen said he would expect to get similar results at other universities.

"I don't think this is just a UW problem," said the psychology student, who noted, however, that his study sample included more women than the national average for studying abroad and the students he looked at were more diverse ethnically than the national average.

His research did not pinpoint why students drink more while they study abroad, but the results don't necessarily indicate binge drinking. Pedersen says a drink or so each night with dinner could add up to the 10 drinks a week European visitors reported on average.

"In general drinking is an issue on college campuses. When you take that and put it in a foreign country there's potential for more consequences," Pedersen said. He noted, however, that most students who study overseas, including those who drink, do not get in trouble while they're abroad.

Of the several thousand University of Washington students who study abroad each year, 177 answered a questionnaire before they went away and when they returned.

On average, those students doubled their drinking while abroad, but most returned to an average of three to five drinks a week when they returned to Seattle. A subset of students who traveled to the Middle East and other places where drinking is not as prevalent reported their intake decreased while abroad.

Students who were less than the legal drinking age in the United States increased their drinking while abroad by about 170 percent, the study found. The overall increase was about 105 percent.

Henry Wechsler, a lecturer at the Harvard School of Public Health, who was not involving in Pedersen's research, said the finding that location is an important element in shaping drinking behavior is consistent with his department's research.

"We found that college students in the United States tend to drink at the levels of young people in the states where the colleges are located. What seems to be added here is that being away from the home environment of the college may create a 'spring break' atmosphere," he said.

Since an increase in college student deaths related to drinking in the late 1990s, more research has focused on student drinking. This study points to more areas that need to be examined, said Bob Saltz, senior scientist of the Berkeley, Calif.-based Prevention Research Center. He was not associated with this research.

Saltz said the next step is to use this information to find ways to prevent students from getting in trouble with drinking while studying abroad. He said several recent studies have found success at decreasing student drinking while in the United States.

He would like to hear more about these students and their drinking: Were they having a beer with lunch or a glass of wine with dinner, or was it something more?

Life & Style

Joan Sutherland, 'voice of the century,' dies

GENEVA (AP)—Joan Sutherland's radiant soprano stretched effortlessly over more than three octaves, with a purity of tone that made her one of the most celebrated opera singers of all time.

Acclaimed "La Stupenda,"—"the Stupendous One"—during a career spanning more than four decades, Sutherland was known in the opera world as an "anti-diva" diva whose warm vibrant sound and subtle coloring helped revitalize the school of early 19th-century Italian opera known as bel canto.

She died Sunday at her home near Geneva, after what her family described as a long illness. She was 83.

Superlatives were attached to Sutherland's name from the moment she made her Italian debut in the title role of Handel's "Alcina" in Venice in 1960.

Luciano Pavarotti proclaimed hers "the voice of the century," while to English-speaking opera goers she was "The Incomparable" for her mastery of coloratura—the ability to effortlessly sing difficult trills and rapid passages in high registers.

The late tenor Pavarotti, who joined with mezzo-soprano Marilyn Horne in Sutherland's farewell gala recital at London's Covent Garden on Dec. 31, 1990, called her "the greatest coloratura soprano of all time."

"Her voice came straight into my ear; it was as if she was singing in my ear," Horne told The Associated Press on Monday.

As her good friend Sutherland lay dying in Switzerland, Horne said she "couldn't sleep all night. It was almost as if I was keeping vigil." She said she waited until 4 a.m., when it was "a decent hour" in Europe, and called Sutherland's husband, conductor Richard Bonynge.

"Ricky told me, 'She's gone,'" said Horne, adding that Sutherland had suffered from a heart ailment for several years.

Spanish tenor Placido Domingo, who first worked with Sutherland when he made his U.S. debut in 1961, rated his appearances opposite her in productions of the bel canto opera "Lucia di Lammermoor" at the Met and in Hamburg as "among the greatest stage experiences of my life."

"That magnificent voice, with its enormous range and power, and the interpretations she brought not only to standard repertoire operas but also to bel canto works that had nearly been forgotten, ensure a permanent place for her in the history of our art," Domingo said.

With a resplendent soprano capable of effortless flights from low G to high C and beyond, the Australian-born Sutherland could have evolved in many operatic directions. While under contract at Covent Garden, she sang Mozart, Poulenc, Verdi—even Wagner.

However, her 1954 marriage to Bonynge, a fellow Australian who became Sutherland's coach, set her on her future path, taking on the major roles of early 19th-century Italian bel canto opera.

The bel canto repertory—literally "beautiful song" in Italian—had languished for decades outside Italy, until the legendary Maria Callas took on the roles in the early 1950s, demonstrating that operas like Donizetti's "Lucia di Lammermoor" and Bellini's "Norma" were not just showcases for coloratura agility but gripping dramatic works.

The two powerhouse sopranos were frequently compared to one another, sparking rumors of a rivalry.

Italian director Franco Zeffirelli, who directed Sutherland in the 1959 Covent Garden performance of "Lucia di Lammermoor" that launched her international career, said he knew Sutherland's voice rivaled that of Callas from the moment he heard it.

Italian conductor Tullio Serafin, who discovered Sutherland, urged Zeffirelli to hear the young singer.

"I went to the hotel, and he said, 'I want you to meet someone. Don't worry about her looks,'" Zeffirelli said in an interview. "We went to the theater and I saw her, as big as a sergeant in the army with a terrible Australian accent."

Then "she started to sing, and she conquered me. I said, my God, it is going to be big trouble for Callas."

Still, the two sopranos were never artistic rivals, he said.

"They were two enormous artists. ... They respected one another. When you reach that level you are beyond how normal people react. They were absolutely above these petty jealousies," Zeffirelli said.

Sutherland soon was seen as the pre-eminent singer of Italian bel canto opera. If she couldn't project the raw passion of Callas on stage, Sutherland's voice was far steadier and she could maintain a perfect vocal line in some of opera's most difficult roles, such as "Norma."

"She had more vocal flexibility than Callas," said Lotfi Mansouri, former general director of the San Francisco Opera, who directed Sutherland in more operas than any other director.

"She had a very extreme vocal range. Most of the time coloraturas are smaller, lighter voices. Joan had a lush middle register."

Noting Sutherland's contributions to the bel canto repertoire, soprano Renee Fleming called the singer "an inspiration ... not only for her glorious instrument, but also as a courageous artist who explored unknown bel canto works, now thankfully part of the standard repertoire today."

"No soprano in recorded history has sung with the same virtuosic perfection," Fleming said.

AP

In this Friday, Jan. 10, 1987 file picture, Dame Joan Sutherland, left, and Luciano Pavarotti sing a scene from Gaetano Donizetti's opera Lucia di Lammermoor at the Metropolitan Opera in New York.

DC's Politics & Prose co-owner Carla Cohen dies

NEW YORK (AP)—Carla Cohen, a community activist who co-owned a Washington bookstore that became a city institution and a key stop for writers ranging from Bill Clinton to J.K. Rowling, has died.

Cohen died Monday of cancer of the bile ducts, the Politics & Prose bookstore announced on its website. She was 74 and died at her home in Washington.

A former city planner, Congressional aide and federal housing official, Cohen founded the store in 1984 and had run it with co-owner Barbara Meade.

During an era when superstore chains, the Internet and the economy led to the closing of thousands of independent stores, Politics and Prose expanded from a crowded storefront with less than 2,000 square feet to a two-story haven with more than 10,000 square feet, including a downstairs cafe.

In the past quarter century, Politics and Prose has become a key stop for political and literary figures promoting books, from Clinton and Jimmy Carter to Rowling and John Updike. Nobel laureate V.S. Naipaul and former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice are among those expected to stop there this fall.

After Cohen was diagnosed with cancer last November, she and Meade agreed to sell Politics and Prose. Meade said Monday that they received around 50 proposals, had narrowed them to about half a dozen and expected a final choice within a few months.

"We just finished our busiest year ever," Meade said. "We do a lot of business online, we do a lot of store events and we've always had a growing customer base."

Regular customers at Politics and Prose included such conservatives as George Will and Paul Wolfowitz, but Cohen was a liberal who didn't hesitate to question a customer's choice.

A Baltimore native, Cohen was the eldest of six siblings in a "a robustly noisy Jewish family" where she appreciated the silence of books, according to the store's website. She graduated from Antioch College and worked for years in Philadelphia and Washington as an advocate for greater local control of housing and of neighborhood planning. In the late 1970s, she was an aide to Robert Embry, Jr., assistant secretary during the Carter administration for the Department of Housing and Urban Development for Community Planning and Development.

After Ronald Reagan, a Republican, defeated Carter in 1980, Cohen was out of a job and decided to start a bookstore, her devotion to reading and current affairs besting her disregard for profit and loss. The money side would be handled by Meade, who answered a classified ad in which Cohen sought a store manager.

"She had never been interested in running a business, so her friends told her she had to partner up with somebody who could do that," Meade said.

Survivors include David Cohen, Cohen's husband of 52 years; two children; two grandchildren; and her mother, 100-year-old Edith Furstenberg.

In Loving Memory

Florinda Ingereklii Cabrera

"Tunda"

&

Beloved Baby Willani Jahnaiya

Were called to their eternal rest on September 27, 2010

In her eternal life she now joins her:

Grandparents: August Palacios Cabrera & Matilde Mesa Cabrera
Emiliano & Ngederong Ingereklii
Father: William Mesa Cabrera
Brother: Eustace Ingereklii
Common Law Father: Frank Aguon Camacho

She will be remembered in the hearts of her:

Common Law Spouse: Jerome Mad Camacho
Daughter: Kaiya Journey Cabrera Camacho
Mother: Sabina Ingereklii Cabrera
Common Law Mother: Elizabeth (Sabeth Mad Camacho

Brothers and Sisters & In Law:

William I. Cabrera and Jane Kintaro (Vladimir & Alisia Cabrera)
Charlette C. & Manny A. Borja (Willdrow/Lorena–Leyanna, Willtun, Leilani, Wil-Leina), Nathan, Kyle, Chelsea)
Sylvia I. Cabrera (Willaine Cabrera- Cody, Chris Allen), (Nicole C. Sablan- Kaden), Janelle, Chardonney)
Jessica I. Cabrera & Aquinaldo P. Aquino (William, Jacob, Joevaughn, Quianna)
Joan C. & Claver Filibert (Ayela, W.Liam, Arenka)
Evangeline I. Register (Shaun Register)
Euginia I. & Roger Obakrairur (Lolemei, Roger Jr., Franette, Roni, Ronalette, Rioni)
Sherry Manibusan
Joseph & Rose Sablan (Joselyn, (Eric/Kiomi- Eriana), Keith, AJ, Sasha)
Karla C. & Vincent Mareham (Luke, Zoe, Jake, Sibong)
Alisha Camacho

And numerous uncles, aunts, cousins, nieces, nephews & friends.

On Friday, October 15, 2010; their remains will be escorted at 7:30 a.m. from Nuestra Señora Dela Paz Memorial Chapel, Cabrera Center to Kristo Rai Church for viewing and last respects.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 am. Interment service will follow at Mt. Carmel Cemetary in Chalan Kanoa.

Un Dangkulo Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Kom Kmal Mesulang and Thank You,

The Family

Woman acquitted in Winfrey SAfrica school scandal

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—A woman accused of abusing teenagers at Oprah Winfrey's school for girls in South Africa was acquitted of the charges Monday, and Winfrey said she was "profoundly disappointed" by the trial's outcome.

Prosecutors had accused former school matron Tiny Virginia Makopo of trying to kiss and fondle girls at the school soon after it opened in 2007 outside Johannesburg.

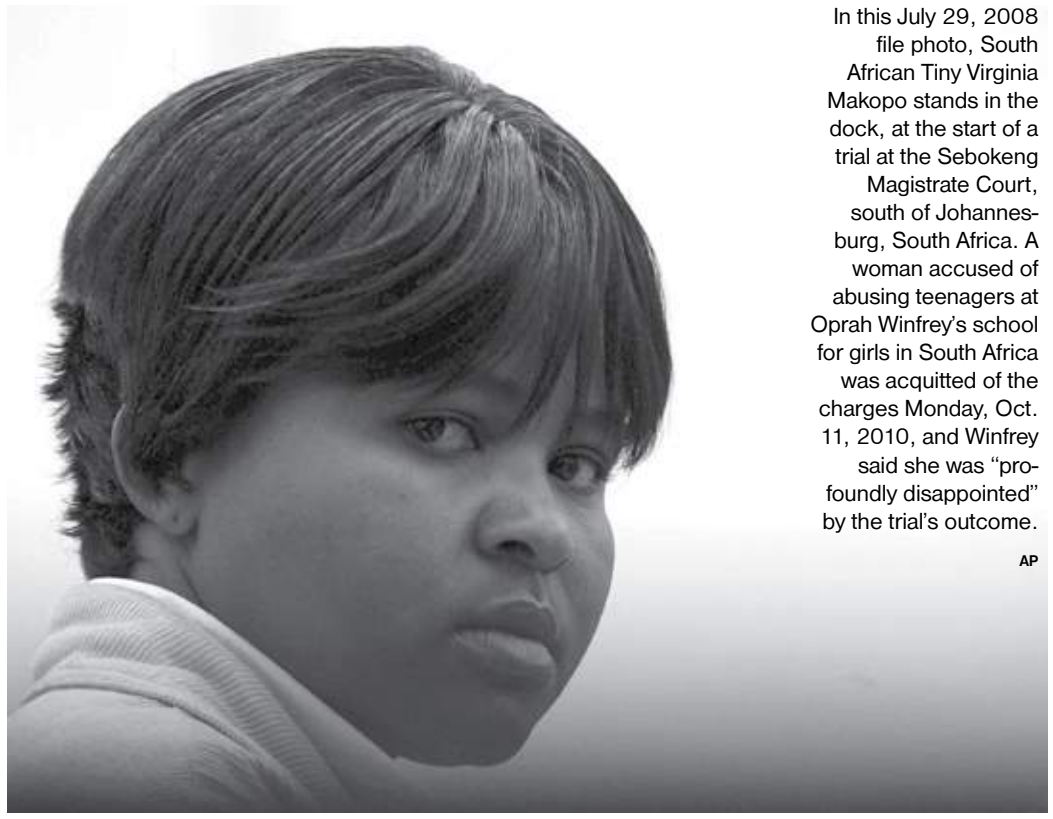
Makopo also had been accused of assaulting one of the teens as well as a fellow supervisor.

"The matron who was working at the Oprah Winfrey school was found not guilty on all the sexual assault charges," Mthunzi Mhaga, a spokesman for South Africa's National Prosecuting Authority, said Monday. "The magistrate was of the view that the state had failed to prove beyond reasonable doubt that she was guilty. We won't be appealing the judgment."

Winfrey had called the allegations crushing given her own stated history of childhood sexual abuse and promised an overhaul of the school.

"I will forever be proud of the nine girls who testified with the courage and conviction to be heard," Winfrey said in a statement Monday.

The lavish $40 million Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls, which opened in January 2007, aims to give girls from deprived backgrounds a quality education in a country where schools are struggling to overcome the legacy of apartheid.



In this July 29, 2008 file photo, South African Tiny Virginia Makopo stands in the dock, at the start of a trial at the Sebokeng Magistrate Court, south of Johannesburg, South Africa. A woman accused of abusing teenagers at Oprah Winfrey's school for girls in South Africa was acquitted of the charges Monday, Oct. 11, 2010, and Winfrey said she was "profoundly disappointed" by the trial's outcome. AP

"It's unfortunate that this had to happen because what Oprah Winfrey has done for those children in that school—it's really encouraging, it's outstanding, it's really appreciated by South Africans," Mhaga said. "But unfortunately, in the justice systems in every country, it's not about what you know, it's about what you can prove in the court of law."

The school is spread across a 22-acre campus with neat lawns and garden paths decorated with mosaics. It has computer and science labs, a library and a wellness center. The school is home to about 300 girls from across the country.

Winfrey said Monday that the school's staff "is committed to providing a nurturing educational environment so that all of our girls may continue to flourish. And they are indeed thriving."

In March, Winfrey had settled a defamation lawsuit filed in Philadelphia by the school's former headmistress, Nomvuyo Mzamane, who claimed Winfrey defamed her in remarks made in the wake of the 2007 sex-abuse scandal at the school.

Mzamane claimed that she was never told of any sexual abuse. However, Winfrey's lawyers said in a March pretrial memo that Mzamane failed to discipline Makopo despite her history of run-ins with students and fellow staff.

Mzamane said she had trouble finding a job after Winfrey stated she had "lost confidence" in her.

Lawyers for both sides in March said Winfrey and Mzamane met to resolve their differences out of court.

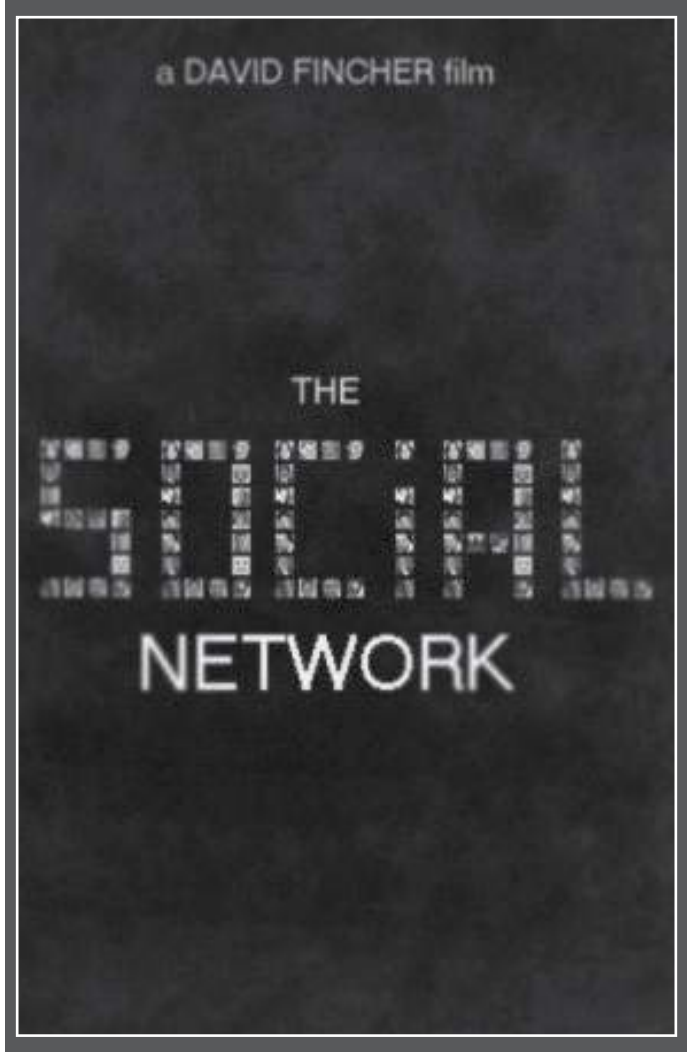
'Social Network' stays on top with $15.5M weekend

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Facebook story "The Social Network" is still No. 1 at the box office, taking in $15.5 million in its second weekend.

David Fincher's acclaimed drama beat out Katherine Heigl's new comedy "Life As We Know It," which debuted at No. 2 with $14.5 million, and Diane Lane's horse-racing saga "Secretariat," which opened at No. 3 with $12.7 million.

The top 20 movies at U.S. and Canadian theaters Friday through Sunday, followed by distribution studio, gross, number of theater locations, average receipts per location, total gross and number of weeks in release, as compiled Monday by Hollywood.com are:

1. ***"The Social Network,"*** Sony, $15,451,991, 2,771 locations, $5,576 average, $46,021,161, two weeks.
2. ***"Life As We Know It,"*** Warner Bros., $14,506,464, 3,150 locations, $4,605 average, $14,506,464, one week.
3. ***"Secretariat,"*** Disney, $12,694,770, 3,072 locations, $4,132 average, $12,694,770, one week.
4. ***"Legend of the Guardians: The Owls of Ga'Hoole,"*** Warner Bros., $6,888,019, 3,225 locations, $2,136 average, $39,273,984, three weeks.
5. ***"My Soul to Take,"*** Universal, $6,842,220, 2,572 locations, $2,660 average, $6,842,220, one week.
6. ***"The Town,"*** Warner Bros., $6,411,008, 2,720 locations, $2,357 average, $73,847,527, four weeks.
7. ***"Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps,"*** Fox, $4,603,123, 2,829 locations, $1,627 average, $43,644,701, three weeks.
8. ***"Easy A,"*** Sony Screen Gems, $4,289,418, 2,847 locations, $1,507 average, $48,228,201, four weeks.
9. ***"Case 39,"*** Paramount, $2,680,305, 2,212 locations, $1,212 average, $9,650,005, two weeks.
10. ***"You Again,"*** Disney, $2,512,782, 2,332 locations, $1,078 average, $20,769,995, three weeks.
11. ***"Let Me In,"*** Overture, $2,447,618, 2,042 locations, $1,199 average, $9,171,419, two weeks.
12. ***"It's Kind of a Funny Story,"*** Focus, $2,013,406, 742 locations, $2,713 average, $2,013,406, one week.
13. ***"Devil,"*** Universal, $1,809,695, 1,442 locations, $1,255 average, $30,046,530, four weeks.
14. ***"Alpha and Omega,"*** Lionsgate, $1,500,000, 1,616 locations, $928 average, $21,020,000, four weeks.
15. ***"Resident Evil: Afterlife,"*** Sony Screen Gems, $1,255,120, 1,012 locations, $1,240 average, $58,866,846, five weeks.
16. ***"Anjaana Anjaani,"*** Eros Entertainment, $726,271, 91 locations, $7,981 average, $726,271, two weeks.
17. ***"Waiting For Superman,"*** Paramount, $630,863, 103 locations, $6,125 average, $1,405,814, three weeks.
18. ***"Toy Story 3,"*** Disney, $555,096, 393 locations, $1,412 average, $412,031,733, 17 weeks.
19. ***"Inception,"*** Warner Bros., $492,311, 403 locations, $1,222 average, $289,183,607, 13 weeks.
20. ***"Catfish,"*** Universal, $393,359, 143 locations, $2,751 average, $2,236,110, four weeks.



A sly 'Simpsons' opening by graffiti artist Banksy

NEW YORK (AP)—The always clever and often subversive opening sequence for "The Simpsons" took a darker-than-usual turn with Sunday's episode, depicting the animation process for the Fox cartoon series as sweatshop drudgery performed by an exploited Asian underclass.

Created by the street artist and activist Banksy, the sequence began with the sight of hometown Springfield covered with graffiti—and tagged by Banksy himself.

Then, when the Simpson family gathers on their living room couch, that image becomes a reference shot for legions of workers in the grim industrial complex where they paint cartoon cells and churn out Simpsons merchandise (including Bart dolls stuffed with the fur of kittens tossed into a wood chipper, and DVDs whose center holes are punched by a forlorn-looking unicorn's horn).

The entire enterprise is housed in a dreary-looking factory sprawl surrounded by barbed wire and identified by the looming 20th Century Fox logo and searchlights.

Through its long history, "The Simpsons" has never hesitated to lampoon its network bosses and other Fox programming.

But Sunday's self-inflicted jab was inspired by the fact that much of the rote production work for each "Simpsons" episode is indeed outsourced from the series' L.A. creative hub to studios in South Korea.

The sequence's mastermind, Banksy, is an international figure in street art who is known for traveling the world and anonymously leaving his signature pieces in public areas while refusing to reveal his real name.

On Monday, "Simpsons" executive producer Al Jean said he had hit on the idea of inviting Banksy to create a so-called "couch gag" after seeing the film he directed, "Exit Through the Gift Shop," which was released earlier this year.

The "Simpsons" casting director managed to track down the famously hard-to-reach artist, and a few months later his work was submitted.

Although Jean said the segment was "toned down a little" for airing, "there was nothing unusual from the network in terms of notes or delays.

"Fox has a remarkable ability to make fun of itself and be gracious," he said.

`Outlaw' headed for Saturday, then cancellation

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The new Jimmy Smits drama "Outlaw" is headed for Saturday night and then oblivion.

NBC said Monday that the series will air at 8 p.m. EDT Saturday through Nov. 15, with a pre-emption on Oct. 30. Then the show will be off the network's schedule.

Ratings for "Outlaw" dwindled on Friday nights after a respectable showing last month for the first episode. It debuted on a Wednesday night after the finale of summertime hit "America's Got Talent" but couldn't convert the coattails introduction into success.

Production on "Outlaw" has been suspended. The legal drama had an unlikely premise, with Smits as a U.S. Supreme Court justice who quits the high court to return to private practice.

Dee, Elliott among honorees of Black Girls Rock

NEW YORK (AP)—They are of different genres and different generations, yet Ruby Dee and Missy Elliott will be among those honored as part of the Black Girls Rock! awards show on BET.

Besides the legendary actress and the rapper-singer-producer, other honorees include actresses Keke (KEE-kee) Palmer, Raven-Symone (RAY'-ven sih-MOHN') and author Ilyana Vanzant (ee-YAHN'-lah).

Black Girls Rock! is an organization founded by DJ Beverly Bond. It mentors young black girls and works to combat negative images of black women in the media. Though there have been previous Black Girls Rock! awards shows, this will be the first to air nationally.

The ceremony will be held Saturday in the Bronx, and the special will air Nov. 7.

In this June 14, 2010 file photo, actress Ruby Dee arrives at the Apollo Theater for the Spring 2010 Benefit Concert and Awards Ceremony in New York. AP

Courteney Cox and David Arquette separate

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Courteney Cox and David Arquette announced Monday they have been separated for some time but said they remain committed parents and "best friends."

The actors released a joint statement announcing what they are calling a trial separation.

"The reason for this separation is to better understand ourselves and the qualities we need in a partner and for our marriage," the statement said. "We remain best friends and responsible parents to our daughter and we still love each other deeply."

The statement was released shortly after In Touch Weekly reported the couple's split.

Cox, 46, and Arquette, 39, met on the set of the film "Scream" in 1996 and married three years later. They have a 6-year-old daughter together.

The actors' statement Monday said they were comfortable with the boundaries they had set up and hoped they would be treated with dignity by friends, family and the media.

While the pair are inserting some space into their personal lives, their careers remain intertwined.

Cox and Arquette are costarring in the fourth installment of the "Scream" series, which is due out next year.

Cox gained widespread fame for her role on the comedy "Friends" and currently stars in ABC's "Cougar Town." Arquette is an executive producer of that show and has appeared in numerous films, including "Never Been Kissed" and "3000 Miles to Graceland."

In this Aug. 31, 2009 file photo, David Arquette, left, and Courteney Cox Arquette pose together at the launch of The Cheesecake Factory's Drive Out Hunger Tour benefiting Feeding America in Culver City, Calif.

AP

Rhys Ifans cast as villain in new 'Spider-Man'

AP

In this Oct. 4, 2010 file photo, British actor Rhys Ifans, who plays Mr Nice, arrives at a central London cinema for the UK premiere of "Mr Nice."

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Rhys Ifans is playing the bad guy in the next "Spider-Man." But the filmmakers aren't saying yet which character he'll be. Sony Pictures announced Monday that Ifans, widely known as a comic actor in such films as Julia Roberts and Hugh Grant's "Notting Hill," will co-star as the villain in the superhero adventure due out July 3, 2012. The studio's announcement notes that the "filmmakers prefer to not reveal which character Ifans will be playing."

The Marvel Comics vaults are loaded with villains that Spider-Man has taken on over the decades.

Whoever he winds up playing, Ifans will be up against Andrew Garfield, who stars as Peter Parker, the ordinary youth transformed by the bite of a mutant spider into the web-slinging superhero.

"What sets the Spider-Man villains apart is the complexity of their relationships with Peter Parker," said Marc Webb ("(500) Days of Summer"), who is directing the new "Spider-Man." "Rhys' incredible ability to embody both warmth and rage makes him the ideal choice for this character."

Sony cast Welsh actor Ifans, 43, as the Spidey bad guy after executives saw his performance in the studio's upcoming Shakespeare historical thriller "Anonymous." Ifans plays Edward de Vere, the Earl of Oxford, who some scholars theorize was the actual author of Shakespeare's plays and poems.

Ifans played Grant's offbeat roommate in 1999's "Notting Hill." He co-starred in this year's "Nanny McPhee Returns" and Ben Stiller's comic drama "Greenberg," along with 2009's disc jockey romp "Pirate Radio." He also co-stars in next month's "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1."

The casting choice follows last week's announcement that Emma Stone will co-star as Gwen Stacy in the new "Spider-Man" movie, which begins shooting in December.

George Michael released from jail after 4 weeks

LONDON (AP)—George Michael has regained his freedom.

The wayward singer was released from jail Monday after serving almost four weeks for driving under the influence of drugs.

Michael thanked those who had supported him while he was jailed and said outside his north London home: "I just want to start again."

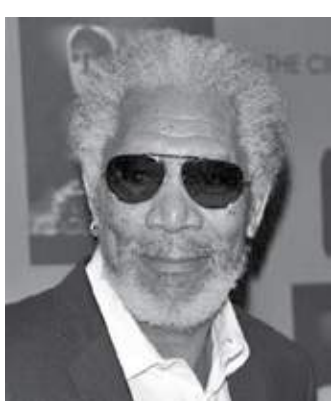
The former Wham! singer received an eight-week sentence on Sept. 14 for crashing his car into a London photo shop in July while high on prescription drugs and marijuana.

The judge ordered Michael to serve four weeks of the sentence in prison and the rest on parole.

The musician, whose hits include "Faith" and "Freedom," also received a 1,250 pound (about $2,000) fine and lost his driver's license for five years.

British singer George Michael outside his house in Highgate, London, after being released from prison, Monday, Oct. 11, 2010.

AP



Freeman to receive American Film Institute honor

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The American Film Institute is honoring Morgan Freeman with its Life Achievement Award.

AFI says the 73-year-old Oscar winner will receive the award in June.

AFI chair Sir Howard Stringer calls Freeman "an American treasure" who brings a calm authority to his roles, "whether playing a prisoner, a president or God."

Freeman has received many awards throughout his career, including the Kennedy Center Honor in 2008. He was nominated for an Academy Award and a Golden Globe for his portrayal of Nelson Mandela in 2009's "Invictus."

Freeman can next been seen in the thriller "Red."

He is the 39th recipient of the AFI Life Achievement Award. Others include Alfred Hitchcock, Bette Davis, Jack Nicholson, Steven Spielberg and Martin Scorsese.

In this Oct. 3, 2010 file photo, Morgan Freeman attends a Cinema Society screening of "Red" at Museum of Modern Art, in New York.

AP

Woman can't stop the affair she started two years ago

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: How do I get out of an affair that has been going on for two years? I started it at a bad time in my life—fights with my husband, the pressure of having three young kids, and a business we co-owned that was in financial difficulty. I know what I did was wrong. My husband doesn't know, and I don't think he suspects.

I'm afraid if I end the affair, I will get blackmailed or found out. My lover refuses to end it. He wants me and thinks he can treat me better than my husband. Any advice?

STUCK IN HOT TEXAS

DEAR STUCK: Just this. A man who "refuses to end it" and implies that he would blackmail or betray you is not someone you would ever want to spend your life with. It's time to tell your husband everything—that you deeply regret what you have done, why it happened, that you want to heal your marriage and be free of this barnacle who refuses to let go. The longer you wait, the more difficult it will be. Do it now.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My wife, "Marissa," and I are expecting our first child. My sister "Patti" has a little boy whom we all love and adore. When Patti learned that we're having a girl, she said we don't "deserve" to have one because she has always wanted a daughter. Then Marissa added fuel to the fire with a few well-chosen remarks of her own that she shared with friends and neighbors.

I just want all of this to stop and I don't know how to accomplish it. I'm upset with Patti for her behavior, and sad that my wife and sister are at odds. This is hurting everyone in the family. What should I do?

STRESSED-OUT DAD-TO-BE

DEAR STRESSED OUT: Everyone needs to just calm down. Your wife and sister need to apologize to each other. Patti may have been joking when she said you don't deserve to have a baby girl. What she may have meant—and overstated—was that she was experiencing a twinge of jealousy.

Suggest to Marissa that your sister shouldn't have been taken literally, and that she apologize to Patti for "snapping." Ditto for your sister for her tactlessness. Then remind your sister that we don't live in a country with a one-child policy. If she wants to try for a daughter, she is free to do so, and in the meantime, she'll have a sweet little niece to spoil.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My family moved to a new state last year. While there have been ups and downs, one of the things I miss most is my pets. Before we moved, we had a dog, a cat and some goldfish. Now we're in an apartment and can't afford all the fees associated with having pets. Also the apartment is too cramped to accommodate them.

My son "Toby" is 2. He loved each of the animals. He'd watch the dog run around, pet the cat and stare at the fish. The cat slept in Toby's nursery, the dog guarded him in his stroller, and the fish loved him because he fed them.

How can I encourage my son's natural love of animals? A few hours playing with a cat or dog would be fine.

PETLESS IN MARYLAND

DEAR PETLESS: Buy your son more goldfish. Read him stories about animals, and take him to the zoo as often as you can manage. His love of animals has already begun and this will continue it to develop.

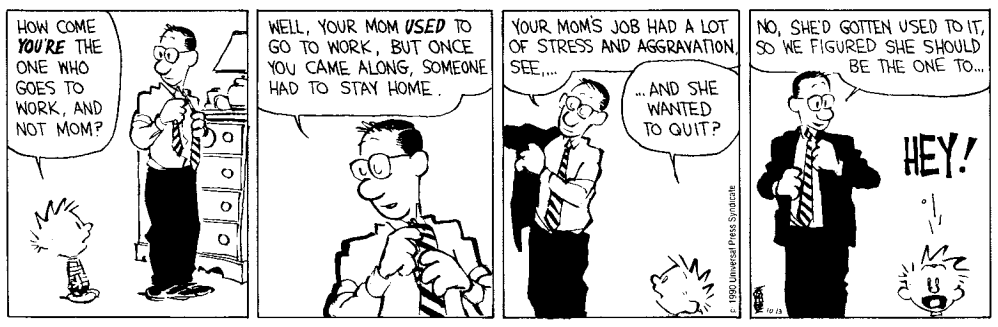
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HOW COME YOU'RE THE ONE WHO GOES TO WORK, AND NOT MOM?
WELL, YOUR MOM USED TO GO TO WORK, BUT ONCE YOU CAME ALONG, SOMEONE HAD TO STAY HOME.
YOUR MOM'S JOB HAD A LOT OF STRESS AND AGGRAVATION, SEE,...
...AND SHE WANTED TO QUIT?
NO, SHE'D GOTTEN USED TO IT, SO WE FIGURED SHE SHOULD BE THE ONE TO...
HEY!
© 1990 Universal Press Syndicate

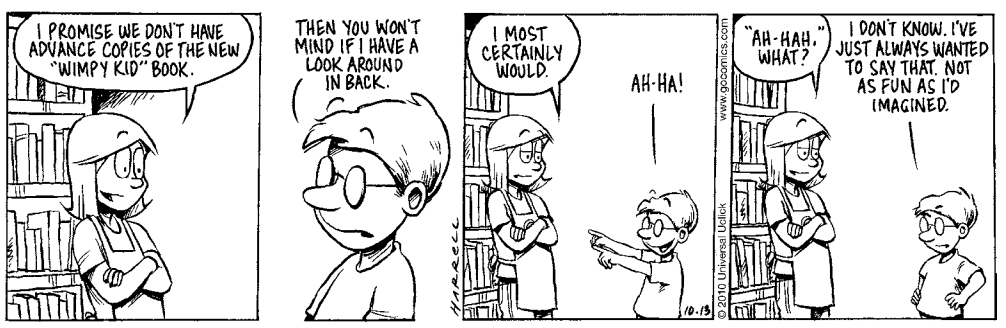
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

I CAN'T BELIEVE MY CAT BEAT ME AT A VIDEO GAME
I MEAN, WHAT DOES THAT SAY ABOUT ME?
JIM DAVIS 10-13
NOTHING WE DIDN'T ALREADY KNOW
SMUGNESS DOES NOT BECOME YOU
© 2010 PAWS, INC. All Rights Reserved
www.garfield.com
Distributed by Universal Uclick

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


I PROMISE WE DON'T HAVE ADVANCE COPIES OF THE NEW "WIMPY KID" BOOK.
THEN YOU WON'T MIND IF I HAVE A LOOK AROUND IN BACK.
I MOST CERTAINLY WOULD.
AH-HA!
"AH-HAH," WHAT?
I DON'T KNOW. I'VE JUST ALWAYS WANTED TO SAY THAT. NOT AS FUN AS I'D IMAGINED.
© 2010 Universal Uclick
www.gocomics.com

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

SERIOUSLY? YOU REALLY LIKE THOSE "TWILIGHT" BOOKS?
FER SURE! I THINK THE VAMPIRES ARE SEXY!
UH, EXCUSE ME FOR A MINUTE WHILE I GO TO THE BATHROOM.
OKAY. I'M BACK.
ARE YOU WEARING BODY GLITTER?
© 2010 Glenn McCoy/Dist. by Universal Uclick
www.gocomics.com

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

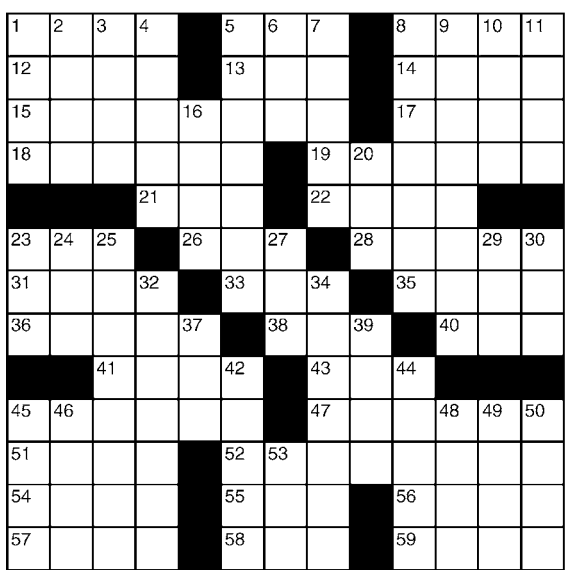
ACROSS
1 Use a teaspoon
5 That woman
8 Wound cover
12 One of LBJ's daughters
13 Candle material
14 Jason's ship
15 Cute story
17 Bound
18 Package
19 Helicopter blades
21 Under the weather
22 Anything but that
23 Scenery chewer
26 Journey segment
28 Sleep soundly?
31 Final notice
33 — de plume
35 Listending abbr.
36 Mexican money
38 Reaction to fireworks
40 Tackle's teammate
41 Resign
43 Insult (Sl.)
45 Curriculum component
47 Extreme selfishness
51 Stratford's river
52 "I Luv U" message
54 Clarinetist Fountain
55 Pendulum's place
56 Particular
57 Quarry
58 Attempt
59 Mafia boss

DOWN
1 Hit openhandedly
2 Albacore, e.g.
3 Bakery employee
4 Actress Christina
5 Distended
6 Chapeau
7 Put forth, as strength
8 Cracker type
9 Wood preservative
10 Culture medium
11 Conks on the noggin
16 Computer brand
20 Surprise cries
23 Go like a bunny
24 Copper head?
25 Inter-viewee's worry
27 Moo — gai pan
29 Scooted
30 Days of yore, once
32 U.S. Open, e.g.
34 Unwillingness to boast
37 One of the kin
39 Lofty
42 Entice
44 Videogame hedgehog
45 "Li'l Abner" creator
46 Finished
48 Tittle
49 Staircase part
50 "Note to self" note
53 Atmosphere

Solution time: 21 mins.

L	A	M	P	■	D	E	B	■	C	O	W	S
O	L	I	O	■	O	V	A	■	O	B	I	E
C	O	R	D	E	L	I	A	■	R	O	S	A
H	U	E	■	A	L	L	■	A	D	E	P	T
■	■	■	C	R	Y	■	T	H	O	■	■	■
F	U	T	O	N	■	Q	U	I	N	I	N	E
A	F	A	R	■	G	E	T	■	I	R	I	S
T	O	D	D	L	E	D	■	K	N	E	L	T
■	■	■	I	S	M	■	B	U	G	■	■	■
B	R	O	A	D	■	S	I	R	■	A	F	T
E	A	R	L	■	C	O	R	D	U	R	O	Y
E	T	A	L	■	A	R	C	■	R	E	A	P
R	E	L	Y	■	N	T	H	■	N	A	M	E

Yesterday's answer 10-13



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ashanti, 30; Sacha Baron Cohen, 39; Kelly Preston, 48; Marie Osmond, 51

Happy Birthday: Making concessions at home will be easy if you are diplomatic. An opportunity to socialize with new people will benefit you when dealing with professional matters. Expanding your outlets through common interests will be the name of the game. The people you work with should also be your playmates. Your numbers are 5, 9, 17, 20, 31, 38, 46

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Partnerships are not likely to bode well if you are intolerant and impatient. Impulsive action will lead to legal, contractual, financial or even physical problems that will stop you in your tracks. Focus on doing the best you can. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Learn from your superiors. Take in every bit of information you can and make it your own. Once you've mastered what's being taught, you can advance in ways you never thought possible. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You should probably take a closer look at your personal papers in order to ensure the safety of your assets. Now is not the time to take chances. Don't pay for someone else's mistakes—offer advice not cash. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): It will be hard to face personal problems and opposition you encounter from friends and family. Listen to what's being said and assess the situation without making a fuss. Expect criticism but don't let what's being said depress you. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Interacting with people who have similar interests or goals will help you get ahead as long as you don't let someone dependent on you cause you to miss opportunities. Take a time-out and reevaluate your current relationships. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): There is a great deal to learn as well as to offer. Sharing information and ideas will lead to an interesting revelation regarding your professional and financial future. Hard work coupled with imagination and innovation will lead to a new way of doing things. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): There will be issues to deal with at home and in your personal life but, if you try to run from the problems you face, it will only make matters worse. You cannot always keep the peace if you want to end old conditions that aren't working to your benefit anymore. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You can learn a lot from your mistakes. Trusting someone to do what's right is not likely to pan out. Handle any matters that need your undivided attention with banks, government agencies or organizations you need on your side to get ahead. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Finish what you start, especially when it has to do with work. A serious, disciplined attitude coupled with originality will help you bypass criticism. Stifle your emotions for now. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Focus on the changes you can make in order to satisfy your needs and you can deal with what others are doing with less stress. Use your experience with others to help you discover how much you have to offer. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Put your heart and soul into whatever you do. Don't let your past hold you back or lead you in the wrong direction. Use your experience or what you have to offer to pay off debts. Don't let anyone take advantage of you. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Deals can be made but partnerships may not turn out as expected. Be careful with whom you get involved. A love relationship can help you secure your assets, allowing you more time to look for the help you need to advance. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are steadfast and determined, intense and passionate about your goals and the people in your life.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

				5				
			4	1	3		2	5
9		1				6		3
3		9				5		1
8	7						3	2
	4						9	
		8				3		
		7	5		2	1		
			9	8	4			

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/13

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

5	9	6	3	7	2	8	4	1
7	4	1	8	5	9	2	6	3
2	3	8	4	1	6	7	9	5
1	8	3	2	9	4	6	5	7
4	2	7	5	6	8	1	3	9
9	6	5	7	3	1	4	8	2
6	1	2	9	8	3	5	7	4
3	5	4	6	2	7	9	1	8
8	7	9	1	4	5	3	2	6

Difficulty Level ★★ 10/12

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

COMPASSES **Solution: 9 letters**

D	F	D	N	O	I	T	A	R	O	L	P	X	E	T
I	B	A	B	O	E	G	N	A	R	H	T	U	O	S
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Danny Kol & Anterina Kol Kasian
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Telephone No. 288-0822

pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re The Matter Of The Petition To Appoint General Guardianship For:	)	FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 10-0513
P.B.J.L.K.	)	NOTICE OF HEARING
Minor Child	)	
By:	)	
Danny Kol & Anterina Kol Kasian	)	
Petitioners	)	

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on October 25, 2010, at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 205A, before Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 27th day of September, 2010.

BERNADITA SABLAN
Clerk of Court

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

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Giants take first playoff win in eight years

ATLANTA (AP)—The San Francisco Giants celebrated their first playoff win in eight years, then paused to honor the man whose career they had just ended.

As Bobby Cox came out of the Braves dugout to tip his cap to the chanting crowd one last time Monday night, the Giants stopped what they were doing on the other side of the field.

They began clapping, too, and tipped their caps in Cox's direction. The Atlanta manager waved back.

Then the Giants headed off to savor a 3-2 victory that sent them to the NL championship series for the first time since 2002. Twenty-one-year-old rookie Madison Bumgarner pitched six strong innings, late-season pickup Cody Ross homered and drove in the go-ahead run with a two-out single in the seventh, and the San Francisco bullpen closed it out.

For Cox, there are no more games, only the reality of what he's going to do with the rest of his life without a group of ballplayers to manage.

He can put away that familiar No. 6 uniform for good.

"It doesn't feel like the last time I'm putting it on, but it certainly is," Cox said, his voice cracking. "I won't put it on again."

The series was tight and tense to the very last out. Giants closer Brian Wilson walked two in the ninth, giving the Braves one more shot to extend Cox's career. But Omar Infante struck out attempting to check his swing on a nasty slider, and Melky Cabrera grounded out to third.

"This series had everything," Giants manager Bruce Bochy said. "Just the intensity and excitement of the series, it had to be thrilling for the fans. There was never an easy moment for Bobby or myself, because these games could have gone either way."

Indeed, every game was decided by one run, but the Giants won three of them to take the best-of-five series and earn a shot against the two-time defending NL champion Phillies. Game 1 is Saturday at Philadelphia and features a marquee matchup: Tim Lincecum vs. Roy Halladay.

After the final out, the crowd of 44,532 chanted "Bobby! Bobby! Bobby!" to lure the retiring skipper out of the dugout for a well-deserved curtain call.

"Thank You, Bobby Cox," the giant video board said as "Georgia On My Mind" played throughout the stadium.

"He's the best manager for me that's ever managed the game," said Ross, who was acquired from Florida on a waiver claim in late August and paid big dividends in October. "I got a chance to play against him for five years. I love coming in here seeing him. I want to congratulate the Braves on a fine season and him on a great career."

Atlanta starter Derek Lowe pitched no-hit ball into the sixth inning, and still it wasn't enough. The Braves have yet to win at Turner Field with a series on the line, losing for the eighth straight time in that situation since the Ted opened to baseball in 1997. Cox won't get a chance to end that streak, deciding more than a year ago to call it a career at age 69.

He heads for the rocking chair as the fourth winningest manager in baseball history (2,504 regular-season victories) but one major shortcoming on a record that will surely be good enough to land him in Cooperstown. In 16 trips to the playoffs - one with Toronto, 15 with the Braves - Cox's teams captured only one World Series title, way back in 1995.

A Braves fan held up a sign pleading for the team to "Win It For Bobby," but Ross and the Giants were in no mood for sentimentality. Not even with the comfort of knowing that Game 5 would've been back in San Francisco, and Lincecum was all rested and ready to go after a two-hit, 14-strikeout shutout in Game 1.

Now, the Giants ace is lined up to face Halladay, who pitched a no-hitter last week in his postseason debut. The Phillies and Giants split six games this season.

"I can't say enough about our pitching," Ross said. "They keep us in it the whole time. We just need to score a few."

The Braves couldn't blame this one on Brooks Conrad. Shortstop Alex Gonzalez made a couple of errors - including a high throw in the decisive seventh that got Ross to the plate with two outs. He delivered a bases-loaded single to left, driving in the tiebreaking run.

Gonzalez also got caught loafing down the line in the eighth after hitting a soft liner toward shortstop - violating one of Cox's few rules (always play hard). Edgar Renteria dropped it, but still threw out Gonzalez easily at first.

Conrad didn't start after making three errors in Game 3, which the Braves were one out from winning to take the lead in the series. The last of those let in the winning run of San Francisco's 3-2 victory, a stunning turnaround that gave the upper hand back to the Giants.

They didn't let it slip away, even after falling behind twice in Game 4. Bumgarner pitched like a veteran, allowing six hits and both Atlanta runs.

Missing Chipper Jones and Martin Prado from an offense that wasn't all that strong to begin with, the Braves simply didn't have enough bats to extend Cox's career. Heyward had his first two hits of the series but still batted .125. As a team, Atlanta managed just 24 hits in the four games.

Lowe did all he could, turning in a gutsy performance on three days' rest. He blanked the Giants without a hit over the first 5 1-3 innings, but Ross struck in the sixth with a liner to left that barely cleared the wall. Just like that, it was 1-all on San Francisco's first hit of the night.

Brian McCann, who had a sacrifice fly in the third to give Atlanta its first lead of the series before the eighth inning, struck again in the sixth. He led off with a shot over the wall in right to quickly restore the Braves' lead.

Lowe - working hard, muttering to himself and sweating profusely on an unseasonably warm night - finally ran out of gas in the seventh.

With one out, Aubrey Huff drew a walk from Lowe. Buster Posey followed by topping one toward third baseman Troy Glaus, who was essentially Conrad's replacement but can barely move because of a sore knee. Posey beat it out without even drawing a throw.

Cox walked slowly toward the mound as though he was going to make a change, but he wanted to ask Lowe how he felt. The pitcher nodded his head and Cox left him in the game, drawing a huge cheer from the crowd.

AP

San Francisco Giants center fielder Cody Ross, left, celebrates with teammates Andres Torres (56) and pitcher Madison Bumgarner, right, after htting a solo home run in the sixth inning of Game 4 of baseball's National League Division Series, Monday, Oct. 11, 2010 in Atlanta.

Rangers, Rays aces ready to square off again

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Rays manager Joe Maddon spoke matter-of-factly, assessing Tampa Bay's chances of completing an improbable comeback against the Texas Rangers in the opening round of the AL playoffs.

Down 2-0 after losing the first two games of the series at home, the AL East champions rebounded to win the next two on the road and force a deciding Game 5 on Tuesday night at Tropicana Field.

Postseason ace-for-hire Cliff Lee will start for Texas, hoping to finish what he started with a dominating performance in Game 1.

The Rangers built on the 5-1 victory and were five outs from their first postseason series win before the sputtering Rays—in Maddon's words - got their "mojo" back.

"Getting ahead is really a big component in this series," said Maddon, who will send 19-game winner David Price to the mound in a rematch of the starting pitchers from the opener.

"The first three games we just did not show up. All of a sudden we showed up for what, one and a half games now? Definitely there's a difference in the dugout and within the clubhouse. It's back to where it had been, and that's where we need to be. We play off our internal emotions pretty well, and we didn't have any."

The Rays, who had the AL's best record this season, are trying to become the sixth team in major league history to win a postseason series after losing the first two games at home. The 2001 New York Yankees were the last to do it (and the only ones to rally in a best-of-five playoff), bouncing back against Oakland.

Maddon likes Price's chances of completing the task, even though the 25-year-old was outpitched by Lee in Game 1.

"He was not satisfied in what he did that first game. I know him, he took a lot of that on himself," Maddon said. "But I do believe any kind of mistakes he thought he made, he's not going to make them in Game 5. He's got the ability, both mentally and physically, to make the corrections, so that's what I see from David. I see a very, very good performance."

The Rangers are the only current major league franchise that has never won a playoff series. They outscored the Rays 11-1 in the first two games and led in the eighth inning of Game 3 before Tampa Bay fought back.

Since batting .123 (10 for 81) with one homer through the fifth inning of Game 3, the Rays have hit .362 (21 for 58) with four homers.

Texas manager Ron Washington is confident Lee can cool the bats again.

"They proved they can beat us on our field, we proved we can beat them on their field. This is what it's about now," Washington said when asked if he has a message for his team.

"They have the right person they feel that's going to be throwing tomorrow, and we certainly feel the same way. So it's a matter of going out there, getting Cliff some runs. And if we get him some runs, he'll take it to the finish line. That's what it's all about."

Lee, obtained from Seattle in early July with this type of situation in mind, is 5-0 with a 1.52 ERA in six career postseason starts.

The 2008 AL Cy Young Award winner was 4-0 with a 1.56 ERA in the postseason for Philadelphia last October, including a pair of wins over the Yankees in the World Series.

Still, the Rays are confident. After all, they did beat him three times this season.

"Obviously, he's had good postseason success. But at the same time, we're in a good spot," third baseman Evan Longoria said. "We've been able to bring the series back home, and we have our horse on the mound, too."

Lee said he doesn't feel extra pressure because of the Rangers' history of postseason futility.

"I have heard about that, but that really doesn't matter to me that much, to be honest with you. This is a different team," he said. "It's a whole different set of circumstances.

"What has happened in the past, they could have had 60 World Series rings and that's not going to change the way I am approaching this season and this postseason. ... We want to get a ring, period. Regardless of whether they've done it every season up until now or never done it before."

Lee allowed one run and five hits, walked none and matched his postseason best of 10 strikeouts in Game 1.

He doesn't plan to change much for Game 5.

"I am really a guy that goes out there and makes pitches and sees how the hitter swings at them and makes adjustments on the fly," Lee said. "Obviously, I will have a game plan and what I did last time, a lot of that worked. So they will have to prove to me that they are making adjustments before I will make a big adjustment. That's how I have always pitched."

Price yielded homers to Nelson Cruz and Bengie Molina while giving up five runs and nine hits in the opener.

Jets overcome Favre's milestones in win

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—Brett Favre was at his dazzling best after a miserable start that put the Minnesota Vikings in a hole.

There would be no classic comeback this time, though, for the record-breaking quarterback.

Hit hard early and often by Rex Ryan's physical defense, Favre nearly led the Vikings back with a milestone night, but Dwight Lowery returned an interception 26 yards for a touchdown with 1:30 left as the New York Jets beat the Vikings 29-20 on Monday night in a game that lacked fireworks early and was delayed 45 minutes at the start by lightning.

Nick Folk kicked five field goals for the Jets (4-1), two after fumbles by Favre, and now the 41-year-old quarterback is left wondering if an even bigger punishment is in store from NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell.

Favre finished 14 for 34 for 264 yards for the Vikings (1-3) hours after he apologized to teammates for the distraction caused by an NFL investigation into allegations that he sent racy messages and lewd photos to a Jets game hostess in 2008.

Brushing off those issues, he became the first NFL player to throw 500 touchdown passes and for 70,000 yards. But two early fumbles against his former team helped put the Vikings in a 12-0 hole.

Favre, who played for the Jets during the 2008 season, threw three touchdowns, including two to Percy Harvin. The second - an 11-yard pass - brought the Vikings within two points with 3:09 left in the game.

The Vikings had the ball with 1:43 remaining and poised for a winning drive - until Favre's last big mistake sent Minnesota to its seventh straight loss to New York.

The game marked the Vikings debut for Randy Moss, who finished with four catches for 81 yards, including a 37-yard touchdown late in the third quarter.

AP

New York Jets' LaDainian Tomlinson flies over Minnesota Vikings' Husain Abdullah during the first quarter of an NFL football game between the Minnesota Vikings and the New York Jets Monday, Oct. 11, 2010, in East Rutherford, N.J.

With the Jets leading 12-0 and the Vikings facing third-and-17 from the Jets 37, Favre reared back and lofted the ball perfectly into Moss' hands in the back right corner of the end zone with 2:10 left in the quarter. Favre zipped down the field and jumped into Moss' arms in the end zone to celebrate the score. Favre also became the first to reach 70,000 yards passing on the drive that cut the Jets lead to 12-7.

Moss, acquired from New England last Wednesday, was defended mostly by Antonio Cromartie despite the return of Darrelle Revis from a strained left hamstring.

Adrian Peterson had 88 yards on 18 carries for Minnesota.

Less than 5 minutes after connecting with Moss, Favre hit Harvin for a 34-yard touchdown that made it 15-13. But Favre's tying 2-point conversion try was intercepted by Cromartie in the end zone.

Shonn Greene's 23-yard touchdown run with 4:30 left in the game gave the Jets a 22-13 lead that appeared to seal the victory, but Favre still had plenty of time to try for a comeback.

New York's offense struggled for the first time since Week 1, failing to get much going—other than field goals—until late.

Mark Sanchez was 21 of 44 for 191 yards, and still hasn't thrown an interception this season, although he came close a few times. Santonio Holmes played his first game with the Jets after being suspended the first four for violating the NFL's substance abuse policy. He finished with three catches for 41 yards.

LaDainian Tomlinson had another solid game for the Jets with 94 yards rushing on 20 carries.

Folk's fifth field goal, a 31-yarder, made it 15-7 with 49 seconds left in the third. The score was set up by Brad Smith's 86-yard kickoff return.

Folk kicked a 25-yard field goal to give the Jets a 3-0 lead with 4:55 left in the opening quarter. The drive was all Tomlinson, who had three runs for 30 yards and two catches, as well.

Folk made it 6-0 with a 53-yard field goal.

Favre was just 1 for 3 - a 19-yard pass to Harvin - in the first quarter, and 3 for 7 for 31 yards in the first half as Minnesota had 52 yards of total offense.

Meanwhile, Favre has apologized to the Minnesota Vikings for the distraction caused by an NFL investigation into allegations that he sent racy messages and lewd photos to a Jets game hostess in 2008.

A person with knowledge of the situation told The Associated Press that Favre spoke to his teammates Monday while they were preparing to play the New York Jets at New Meadowlands Stadium. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk publicly about the conversation.

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said Monday that the league is looking to "find out all the facts" regarding the Favre allegations and that once the investigation is finished "then we'll determine what the next step is from there, if any."

Goodell spoke in Chicago, where he is attending league meetings. There was no indication from the NFL when the investigation would be complete or when the league would talk to the quarterback.

The NFL is trying to determine if Favre, a three-time MVP, violated its personal conduct policy. Should the league find he did, Favre could be fined or suspended.

"The first thing you want to do is find out the facts, and that's what we're trying to do," Goodell said. "We're trying to find out all the facts around it and then once we determine those facts, then we'll determine what the next step is from there, if any."

After a long stretch with Green Bay, where he won a Super Bowl, Favre played for New York in 2008 and then signed with the Vikings last year.

Last week, the website Deadspin posted a story which included several voicemails allegedly sent by Favre to Jenn Sterger, who worked for the Jets while Favre was with the team. The voicemails include a man asking to meet with Sterger, who now is a TV personality for the Versus network. The website posted a video that contained the voicemails and several graphic photos—said to be of Favre—that were allegedly sent to Sterger's cell phone.

Seahawks WR Deion Branch traded to New England

RENTON, Wash. (AP)—Deion Branch is headed back to New England and a reunion with Tom Brady.

Branch, the former Super Bowl MVP wide receiver with the Patriots, was traded Monday night from the Seattle Seahawks to New England. The Seahawks confirmed the trade late Monday night.

ESPN.com first reported the deal.

Seattle said it will get a fourth-round pick in exchange for Branch getting a reunion with the team that drafted him in 2002.

"(He's) excited as can be," Branch's agent, Jason Chayut said Monday night.

The trade ended a day of speculation after Branch was absent from Seahawks practice.

Seattle coach Pete Carroll was nearly silent on Branch's status, other than saying he gave Branch an excused "personal day" on Monday as the Seahawks returned from their bye.

Carroll added he expected Branch to be with the team at its next practice on Wednesday.

"At this point I do, yes," Carroll said of Branch being around later in the week.

Obviously, that was not the case. Reports first surfaced last week of talks between the Seahawks and Patriots following the trade of Randy Moss from New England to Minnesota.

The normally talkative Carroll said just 28 words in response to any questions about Branch.

Branch joins a young New England receiving group, sans veteran Wes Welker. Aside from Welker, second-year receiver Brandon Tate is the only other Patriots receiver with more than 10 catches.

Branch is signed through next season. He is schedule to make $5.45 million in base salary this year and $5.95 million in 2011.

Before coming to Seattle, Branch was a rising star with the Patriots. He caught a career-best 78 passes for nearly 1,000 yards and five touchdowns in 2005 and that followed up his Super Bowl MVP performance a year earlier. Branch had 11 catches for 133 yards in the Super Bowl against Philadelphia.

Branch arrived in Seattle in 2006, acquired from the Patriots for a first-round draft pick, but that first season in Seattle was the only time Branch was able to stay healthy. His career in Seattle was mostly defined by injuries, missing parts of the previous three seasons with some sort of ailment.

Most of Branch's ailments revolved around his left knee he first injured in a snowy playoff game against Green Bay in January 2008. He also missed time with hamstring and foot injuries.

So far this season, Branch has remained healthy. He's caught 13 passes for 112 yards and a touchdown, but had just one catch in Seattle's 20-3 loss to St. Louis.

His future with Seattle was brought into question when the Seahawks signed Brandon Stokley. Just a few days after being signed, Stokley led the team in catches and targets in their 20-3 loss.

Branch was in Louisville, Ky., over the weekend where his number was honored at the University of Louisville. He told the Louisville Courier-Journal he was trying not to focus on the rumors.

"I'm going to leave that to the people that handle that," Branch told the paper. "Right now I'm still a Seattle Seahawk, and whatever happens, happens."

Iverson considering playing in Turkey

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Former NBA most valuable player Allen Iverson is in "serious talks" to play with a Turkish team.

Gary Moore, Iverson's personal manager, says there is strong interest in both sides to work out a deal that would send the 11-time All-Star overseas. Iverson is negotiating with Besiktas Cola Turka for at least a one-year deal.

"This team seems very interested in having him come play," Moore said by phone. "Allen absolutely wants to play basketball. He has no hesitation going there if that's the best opportunity for him."

Iverson is 17th on the NBA's career scoring list with 24,368 points over a 14-year career with Philadelphia, Denver, Detroit and Memphis. He won the MVP in 2001 when he led the Sixers to the finals.

Iverson's agent, Leon Rose, did not immediately return messages for comment on Monday.

Iverson had been negotiating with a team in China. Moore said those talks aren't dead, but Turkey may be the best option with Besiktas about to start its season. Moore said he has yet to hear from an NBA team.

"He wants to play there again, hopefully," Moore said.

Iverson played three games for Memphis last season before he returned for a second stint with the Philadelphia 76ers. He averaged 13.9 points for the Sixers before he took a leave of absence in March because of family issues.

The 35-year-old Iverson was the No. 1 overall pick in the 1996 draft and spent his first 10 seasons in Philadelphia. He was a four-time scoring champion, averaged 26.7 points and never won a championship.

"Anyone that can appreciate, the game can appreciate, the talents of Allen Iverson," Moore said.

The Turkish team Besiktas is reportedly offering Iverson a one-year contract that could pay him as much as $2 million with bonuses.

Besiktas sent a contract to Iverson on Monday and hopes he'll sign it by week's end. Still, one source said Iverson could take as long as 10 days to finalize the deal.

One stumbling block to an agreement over the weekend was Iverson's reluctance to let Besiktas fine him beyond 1 percent of his $1.5 million base salary.

Iverson has solicited more lucrative offers to play in China this season, but has been intrigued with the prospects of playing in Istanbul. After tumultuous exits in his last three stops —Detroit, Memphis and Philadelphia —Iverson has exhausted all interest from NBA teams. Despite averaging 26.7 points in his 14-year NBA career, Iverson couldn't even get a training camp invitation.

Besiktas is considered third among the three most powerful franchises in the Turkish first division and starts league play over the weekend. Besiktas has a strong following in Turkey, and team officials believe Iverson could be an immense gate draw.

CUC still ahead in government dart league

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CUC Power Plant extended their lead in the 2010 Bud Light Lime Inter-Government Dart League after a 13-2 romping over PSS South Side last Friday.

CUC now has a 108-42 record or 13 wins ahead of second running AG's Piligro. PSS South Side dropped to a 57-93 mark.

AG's Piligro (95-40) remain in second after a one-sided victory over DPH's Oh Yeah!, 12-3, while DPW's Troubleshooters (86-64) are sitting safely in third spot. DPH's Oh Yeah fell to a 51-84 record after the loss.

Weekly notables include a High-In of 160 by Oh Yeah!'s Ed Diaz and a High-Out of 120 by Piligro's Jayson John.

CUC Power Plant 13, PSS South Side 2

At Charlie's Bar, home team CUC Power Plant won three singles 301 matches before sweeping both wild cricket games and both games of partners Burma Half-It. Then the league-leading team secured the automatic victory after taking a partners 501 match. CUC then poured salt in the wound by sweeping all four cricket matches and then won the final team 1001 contest. CUC's Joy Silva won all six of her matches.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
PSS Na'Gupu players pose for a photo in Naked Fish after their 9-6 upset win over the DPS Enforcers in the 2010 Bud Light Lime Inter Government Dart League last Friday.

PSS Na'Gupu 9, DPS Enforcers 6

At Naked Fish, home team Na'Gupu won three of the four singles 301 matches to mount an early lead. Then they swept both wild cricket games, won a partners Burma Half-It contest, and clinched the automatic victory after winning a pair of cricket matches. The Enforcers took the final team 1001 match. Na'Gupu's Victor Borja won five of his six matches to help seal the upset win.

AG's Piligro 12, DPH Oh Yeah! 3

At Buddies Bar & Grill, visiting AG's Piligro won three of the four singles 301 matches and swept both wild cricket games, both partners Burma Half-It, and both partners 501 contests to make light work of DPH's Oh Yeah!. They added three cricket victories to their total, while Oh Yeah! took the final team 1001 match.

Pacquiao sluggish in sparring bouts

BOXING

MANILA— Pound-for-pound king Manny Pacquiao looked far from impressive in six rounds of sparring against undefeated Glen Tapia and Michael Medina at the Shape Up Gym in Baguio City Saturday.

Pacquiao, who drove down to Manila after his workout, went three rounds each with his sparring partners and didn't look good from all accounts of those who were in the gym.

There were reports that he appeared tired after a couple of rounds, allowing Tapia (7-0, 5 KOs) and Medina (24-2-2, 19 KOs) to get the better of him amidst growing concern among Team Pacquiao members that his constant travel to keep other appointments was wearing him down.

Pacquiao, who attended the Philippine Military Alumni Association Family Sportsfest last weekend at Camp Aguinaldo, the oath-taking of runners in the 10.10.10 Pasig River run last Sunday.

Pacquiao's adviser Michael Koncz told the Inquirer that the boxing champ would also "take the day off on Monday" and remain in Manila because of a reported meeting with President Benigno Aquino III.

Koncz said Pacquiao, who is scheduled to fight Antonio Margarito on Nov. 13 in Texas for the WBC super welterweight title, would jog in the morning and run on the track later.

Some Team Pacquiao members said the two-day illness which caused him to skip training and his decision to keep on playing basketball in the evening while missing roadwork the next day are certain to affect his conditioning.

He has only had one or two sessions so far with strength and conditioning coach Alex Ariza.

One of Pacquiao's chiefs of staff Joe Ramos said Pacquiao's sparring was "OK," which was in stark contrast to the normal exuberant accounts by Team Pacquiao members of how well Manny sparred (***Philippine Daily Inquirer***)

BUSINESS

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will still be in effect, while the U15 caging will resume action this Saturday.

Four matches are set for this weekend with Rollers B meeting Sonics in the first game; Rollers battling Rollers C in the second; Runnin' Rebels facing Agape in the third; and Ol'Aces fighting the G-Stars in the last match of the day.

MISO baseball, govt softball on

Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization acting president Nick Gross said the first official game in the MISO Baseball League will be played this Thursday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Seeing action tomorrow at 4:30pm are Southern High School and Kagman High School. Southern will play back-to-back games this week as it takes on Marianas High School on Friday. Mt. Carmel is also entered in the league, but will only play its first game after the first round of the double-round robin competition.

Over at the Capital Hill Ballfied, the 2010 Inter-Government/Business Slow-pitch Softball League will return to action tomorrow night.

Volleyball league playoffs set

Grace Christian Academy coach Becky Robles confirmed that the Coalition of Private Schools Sports Association will have its playoff games at the Ada gym.

"Yes, we are playing at Ada gym. I'm so glad the games will still be played at Ada. It's a great opportunity for athletes to play on a gym floor and not on grass or cement. It speeds up the game and improves everyone's playing ability. Also, playing at Ada allows for no home court advantage. It will be a fun tournament to watch," Robles said.

The private school league will start its playoff round for the junior varsity first on Oct. 18, while teams in the varsity division will have their turn on Oct. 25.

Other leagues scheduled at the Oleai Sports Complex are expected to go ahead, following the reopening of the Susupe facility.

This include the Masters Basketball Federation of the Northern Mariana Islands' 40A and 45A Men's League, which is tentatively set to kick off on Oct. 23.

DOCOMO

From Page 28

points for Westerners, drilling 14 of this total markers in the third period. The third canto ended with Docomo's lead trimmed down to 10, 48-58, after Olaitiman brought Westerners back from a 29-48 halftime deficit.

Olaitiman had gas left in the tank in the last quarter, adding 16 more, but Docomo held on behind the timely baskets of Ron Gamboa. Gamboa canned a triple in the last minute of the fourth period to preserve the win.

Gamboa finished with 17 points for Docomo, which drew at least six points from seven players.

Docomo led by only a deuce at the end of the opening quarter, 18-16, before it began pulling away in the second quarter after limiting Westerners to 13 points.

In the second game, Sonny Lerio drilled 31 points to lift Saimar Pilot to a seven-point win. Saimar Pilot gained only its second win against four losses.

A third-quarter breakaway anchored by Lerio helped Saimar Pilot turn a 35-all score to a 58-48 advantage. Lerio had eight points in the third period, while Art Trajano chipped in six and the two Saimar Pilot players outscored the entire Pacific Grocers crew, 14-13.

Lerio continued to hit his target in the fourth quarter to thwart Pacific Grocers, which played without its main gunner Lerio Pagarao.

The second game started very close with Saimar Pilot ahead by only two points in the opening quarter, 19-17. The competition grew tighter in the second canto, which ended in a deadlock, 35-all.

Lerio led Saimar Pilot in the first half, nailing five triples, while Eugene Mangali and Ernie Moises kept Pacific Grocers afloat, combining for 21 points.

First Game

Docomo Pacific 85 – Gamboa 17, Esdrelon 10, Santos 10, Tabora 10, Casabuena 9, Estolas 9, Diaz 7, Sharry 6, Abuan 5, Villarin 2.

Westerners 82 – Olaitiman 40, Libuw 19, Rapugan 11, Tawanpiy 8, Ebilane 2, Tagabuel 2.

Scoring by quarters: 18-16, 48-29, 63-53, 85-82.

Second Game

Samiar Pilot 79 – Lerio 31, L. Itaas 18, Capalad 14, Trajano 10, Musni 4, J. Itaas 2.

Pacific Grocers 72 – J. Pagarao 17, Mangali 15, Moises 13, Javier 12, Apelo 8, Lansang 4, Camacho 1.

Scoring by quarters: 19-17, 35-35, 58-48, 79-72.

MASTERS

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Gymnasium at 5:30pm.

Details regarding the opening of the league on Oct. 23 and other important matters will be discussed at the meeting. The 11 confirmed teams are asked to send their representatives to the meeting.

Representatives of participating teams are also requested to bring with them the $200 first payment for the entrance fee. The remaining $150 must be paid in the second week of the league.

Besides the down payment for entrance fee, teams should also submit players' proof of age eligibility and completed waiver forms. Only players in the above 40 and 45 age groups will be allowed to play in the league. Players must also pay a non-refundable $5 membership fee.

The masters caging is open only to the first 14 teams to register. Each team is allowed to have a maximum of 12 players in its roster. Players who have yet to join a team can attend the meeting to find one, while head and assistant coaches will be allowed to participate in the league provided they are MBFNMI registered members.

Games in the masters league will be played every Saturday and Sunday only at the Ada gym. FIBA rules will be implemented with a few modified ground rules that will be discussed in detail in tomorrow's meeting.

For more information, contact MBFNMI via e-mail at masters-basketball_670@yahoo.com.

ZAPANTA

From Page 28

nament, but her 671 was only good for second place. Yarobwemal had 208 pinfals in her last game, but failed to surpass Zapanta's mark, as the former's scores in the first three games (171, 161, and 131) were all lower than the latter's. Completing the Top 3 was Diane Chong, who netted 641 pinfalls (154, 127, 178, and 188).

Aldan back on top

After his three straight win in the Fiji Water Prince/Princess of the Lanes ended last month, M.J. Aldan is back on top, prevailing in the October roll-off.

Aldan had a four-game total of 641 pinfalls last Sunday to beat Marion McKenzie, who halted the former's winning run after prevailing in the September tournament.

Aldan secured the October crown after saving his best for last, nailing 211 pinfalls in Game 4. He had 109, 159, and 162 pinfalls in the first three games for 430 pinfalls or just 11 pinfalls ahead of McKenzie (113, 117, and 189), going into the last game.

McKenzie failed to notch back-to-back monthly titles, as he had only 167 pinfalls in Game 4 for a total of 586. Leeanne Yarobwemal finished third with her 559 pinfalls.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Jets	4	1	0	.800	135	81
New England	3	1	0	.750	131	96
Miami	2	2	0	.500	66	92
Buffalo	0	5	0	.000	87	161
South						
Houston	3	2	0	.600	118	136
Jacksonville	3	2	0	.600	107	137
Tennessee	3	2	0	.600	132	95
Indianapolis	3	2	0	.600	136	101
North						
Baltimore	4	1	0	.800	92	72
Pittsburgh	3	1	0	.750	86	50
Cincinnati	2	3	0	.400	100	102
Cleveland	1	4	0	.200	78	97
West						
Kansas City	3	1	0	.750	77	57
Oakland	2	3	0	.400	111	134
Denver	2	3	0	.400	104	116
San Diego	2	3	0	.400	140	106

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Washington	3	2	0	.600	89	92
N.Y. Giants	3	2	0	.600	106	98
Philadelphia	3	2	0	.600	122	103
Dallas	1	3	0	.250	81	87
South						
Atlanta	4	1	0	.800	113	70
Tampa Bay	3	1	0	.750	74	80
New Orleans	3	2	0	.600	99	102
Carolina	0	5	0	.000	52	110
North						
Chicago	4	1	0	.800	92	74
Green Bay	3	2	0	.600	119	89
Minnesota	1	3	0	.250	63	67
Detroit	1	4	0	.200	126	112
West						
Arizona	3	2	0	.600	88	138
Seattle	2	2	0	.500	75	77
St. Louis	2	3	0	.400	83	96
San Francisco	0	5	0	.000	76	130

Yesterday's Game
N.Y. Jets 29, Minnesota 20

By The Associated Press

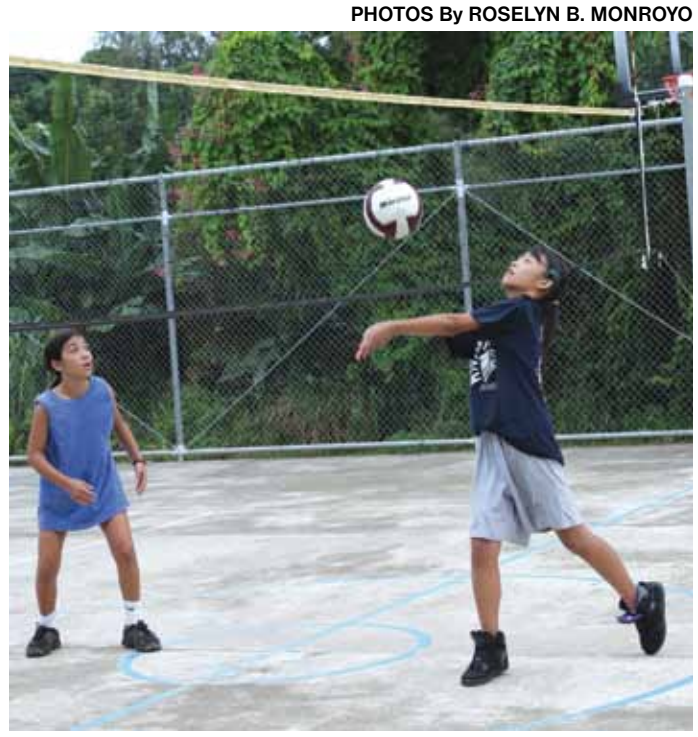
COPSSA Volleyball League Regular Season Games

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Two Mt. Carmel School players in action against Whispering Palms during their regular season game in the junior varsity division of the 2010-2011 Coalition of Private Schools Sports Association Volleyball League.

Grace Christian Academy players watch their teammate go for a kill.

A Calvary Christian Academy player returns to GCA during their varsity game.



A Mt. Carmel School makes a return near the net.

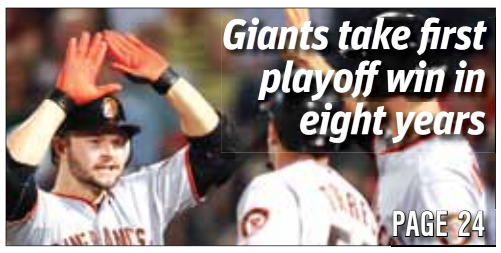
Whispering Palms' Gabrielle Race serves against Mt. Carmel.

Seventh Day Adventist junior varsity team poses for a group photo after downing Saipan International School B.

A Whispering Palms player serves.

Whispering Palms' Nagahr Rastguiy has her eyes on the ball.

A Mt. Carmel School player uses his two arms to return to Whispering Palms.



Saipan Tribune
Sports

Business as usual at Oleai Sports Complex

WALTER SUTHERLAND
Paire Football Club's U14 coach Megan Herber and her players do drills during yesterday's practice session at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

After the budget saga ended last weekend, the Oleai Sports Complex is back to business, opening its various facilities for public use yesterday.

The sports facilities in Susupe and other government-run amenities were closed for more than a week due to the government shutdown, which took effect on Oct. 1 after the disastrous impasse on the budget for Fiscal Year 2011.

Lawmakers finally broke the deadlock last Saturday so staff from the Division of Sports and Recreation, which is in charge of government-operated sports facilities, were among the more than 1,000 government employees who reported back to work yesterday.

Daisy Wabol of the Division of Sports and Recreation said they opened the Oleai Sports Complex yesterday morning at 7:30pm. She added the regular operation hours from 7:30am to 4:30pm will still be implemented, but facilities will be opened until 10pm, provided early reservations were made.

Yesterday, several runners were seen using the track oval, while a group of health buffs resumed their routines at the weight room adjacent to the Ada gym. A football club also had its practice at the Oleai pitch.

Rotary caging resumes tonight

With the Ada gym now open, Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Islands president Elias Rangamar has announced that the 2010 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League will resume tonight.

Tonight's game will have Rollers C taking on the Sonics. On Oct. 14, the Saints will square off against the Kagman Sparks while two matches will be played on Oct. 15. The first game on Friday will have Rollers B challenging Ol'Aces, while the second tiff will have Rollers A colliding with sister team Rollers C.

The Monday to Friday game schedule in the U19 division

See BUSINESS on Page 26

Docomo, Saimar Pilot thwart foes

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Docomo Pacific and Saimar Pilot withstood their foes' repeated comeback bids to emerge victorious in last Monday's games in the 2010 QQ Car Rental Basketball Cup at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Docomo Pacific edged out Westerners in the first game, 85-82, while Saimar Pilot knocked off Pacific Grocers in the second match of the night, 79-72.

The win against Westerners improved Docomo's record to 5-1 and kept the team in second placed behind the undefeated Ferrera Builders (6-0). Westerners remained winless in six games despite getting an explosive game from Mike Olaitiman.

Olaitiman sizzled for 40

See DOCOMO on Page 26

WALTER SUTHERLAND
Docomo Pacific's Emir Abuan goes for a scoop shot against Westerners defenders during their game in the QQ Cup last Monday night at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Masters cage group gets $1K donation from PIC

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Masters Basketball Federation of the Northern Mariana Islands' 40A and 45A Men's League got a shot in the arm after receiving $1,000 donation from Pacific Islands Club.

Masters board chair Ray Lizama received the donation from PIC human resource director Angela Yamashita-Santos during a simple turnover ceremony last Monday at the San Antonio hotel.

Meanwhile, a mandatory meeting for the MBFNMI 40A and 45A Men's League will be held tomorrow at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada

See MASTERS on Page 26

Zapanta, Musca win October roll-offs

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Aldan

Musca

Zapanta

Rusty Musca recorded his first monthly win, while Gigi Zapanta earned her second after the two keglers dominated the SBA-Budweiser October King and Queen of the Lanes Tournament at the Capitol Bowling Center.

Musca ended his nine-month drought after carding a four-game total of 998 pinfalls for a commanding 188-pinfall lead over runner-up Raymond Angeles (810). Musca was steady in his first three games, tallying 279, 246, and 278, before slowing down in the last game with 195 pinfalls for an average of 249.50.

Angeles knocked down more than 200 pins in two games (264 and 205 in Games 1 and 3) and logged 169 in Game 2 and 172 in Game 4 for an average of 202.50. Rounding out the Top 3 was Simon Manacop (230, 164, 212, and 185), who earned 791 pinfalls for an average of 197.75 per game.

Musca posted the highest score in tournament during the first roll-off on Sunday. Angeles and Manacop's second and third-best scores were also recorded in the first roll-off. Bowlers are allowed to bowl on Sunday and Monday, but only the higher score is counted. Fourteen bowlers competed for the King of the Lanes title.

In the Queen of the Lanes event, Zapanta gained her second tiara after besting 12 other female keglers.

Zapanta, who topped the April roll-offs, snapped her five-month losing skid after knocking down 724 pins in four games.

Like Musca, Zapanta made the game-winning feat on Sunday, showing her best form in Game 2 after tallying 206 pinfalls. Zapanta started the roll-off with 175 pinfalls in Game 1 and then recorded 185 and 158 in the last two games for an average of 181 pinfalls.

Linda Yarobwemal bowled in the second day of the tour-

See ZAPANTA on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Pacific Islands Club human resources director Angela Yamashita-Santos, left, presents MBFNMI board chair Ray Lizama with a $1,000 donation check during a brief turnover ceremony last Monday in San Antonio.